Chapter 6: Florida Forever Work Plan, 2006 Annual Update

Chapter coordinator: Wanda Caffie-Simpson

Contributing authors: Henry Bittaker, Carmela Bedregal, Christine Carlson, Delores Cwalino, David Gilpin-Hudson, Pat Gostel, Sally Kennedy, Beth Kacvinsky, Jeff Kivett, Ellen Linblad, Beth McArdle, Marjorie Moore, Georgia Moore-McCall, Matt Morrison, Kim O'Dell, David Rudnick, Bill Salters, Steven Sentes, Tracey Piccone, David Unsell, Beth Williams, Gary E. Williams, Izell Wilson and Dewey Worth

SECTION 6-1: INTRODUCTION

As required by Section 373.199, F.S., the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD or District) has completed the annual update of the Florida Forever Work Plan (FFWP). The purpose of the 2006 Florida Forever Work Plan is to present projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act (Section 259.105, F.S.) and to report on progress and changes since the February 15, 2005 submission of the report (www.sfwmd.gov/sfer/SFER_2005/2005/volume2/chapters/V2_Ch8.pdf).

The Florida Forever Work Plan, 2006 Annual Update is an interim update, with a limited focus of reviewing project activities that will impact land acquisition requirements – acres to be acquired, costs, and schedule – over the next five-year time horizon. It also provides updates on CERP and SOR projects, water quality and supply initiatives, and plans and studies eligible for Florida Forever funding. The report highlights how lands acquired under the Florida Forever program are being used to implement projects, and how future land acquisition requirements are evolving through the outcomes of project planning activities and environmental studies. Additionally, the status of land acquisitions, acres acquired, and acres that remain to be acquired are presented for eligible projects.

This year's report is organized similar to prior years' reports:

- *Sections 6-3* through *6-9* provide updates on project activities occurring within nine regions that impact land acquisition and management activities of the District (see *Section 6-2* for a brief overview of regions);
- *Sections 6-10* and *6-11* provide a review of CERP and SOR programs that receive portions of their land acquisition funding through Florida Forever;
- *Sections 6-12* and *6-13* present the performance measures and goals to be achieved by projects eligible for funding; and
- *Section 6-14* provides a general update on land acquisitions and management activities for the reporting cycle.

This interim update should be used in conjunction with Volume 1 of the 2006 SFER and Volume II, Chapter 8 of the 2005 SFER in order to obtain additional information about the state of the water resource, and systemwide and regional descriptions of land use, water quality, water management practices, physical conditions, and other characteristics as required by statutes.

The 2006 Florida Forever Work Plan identifies a total of 67 eligible projects including CERP and SOR projects and water quality and supply initiatives, plans, and studies.

Newly added projects include the following:

- Lemkin Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility
- Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals (Long-Term Plan) including the EAA Regional Feasibility Study
- C-44 Reservoir and STA (Acceler8)
- Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Areas Expansion (Acceler8)
- C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Reservoir (Acceler8)
- Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir – Phase 1, with Bolles and Cross Canals Improvements (Acceler8)
- Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Areas Expansion (Acceler8)
- Water Preserve Areas, which include Site 1, C-9 and C-11 Impoundments, Acme Basin B, and Water Conservation Area 3A/3B Seepage Management (Acceler8)
- Picayune Strand Restoration (Acceler8)
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1(Acceler8)
- C-111 Spreader Canal (Acceler8)

Projects removed:

- Henscratch Ranch
- Lake Marion Creek
- Reedy Creek
- Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination

FY2006 Florida Forever funds made available to the District from the state in July 2005 are projected to be used to acquire lands for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project. **Table 6-1** presents a five-year forecast (FY2006–FY2010) of projected real estate expenditures for eligible projects. The estimated total real estate expenditures for eligible projects in the five-year period is $3,615,907,537, of which $3,577,349,537 will be used to acquire lands and $38,558,000 will be used to avoid costly acquisitions through the construction of engineering solutions.

Table 6-1. Five-year Florida Forever Water Management District Work Plan estimated expenditures.

SFMWD Florida Forever Work Plan Fiscal Years 2006–2010		
Project Title	**2006**	**2006–2010[1]**
Water Resource Projects		
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan Projects		
CERP Projects		$3,495,574,537
CERP Pilot Projects		$0
Acceler8		$0
Other Resource Related Projects		
Other Water Resource Related Projects		$0
Studies		$0
Conservation & Restoration Projects		
Kissimmee River Restoration	$36,000,000	$52,775,000
KRR construction in lieu of land acquisition (cost-to-cure)		$38,558,000
Save Our Rivers Projects		
SOR Projects		$29,000,000
Management, including recreation		$0
FLORIDA FOREVER TOTALS	**$36,000,000**	**$3,615,907,537**

Note: FY2006 Florida Forever funding was made available by the state in July 2005.

[1] Projections are not adjusted for inflation.

The five-year projected real estate expenditures represent a substantial increase over the prior-year estimate of $1,194,376,822, taking into consideration the new CERP Master Implementation Sequencing Plan, Version 1.0 **(**see *Section 6-10*) and revised land cost estimates reflective of South Florida's escalating real estate market.

A funding stream of $680 million is projected from Florida Forever and Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (SOETF) over the next five years (see **Table 6-2**). The projected SOETF balance of $500 million will be used to fund land costs for CERP projects, leaving a deficit of nearly $3 billion based on the five-year projected real estate expenditures not including inflation. The projected Florida Forever balance of $180 million will be used toward 2006 SOR land acquisitions (Kissimmee River and several other projects) and completing construction of projects, also known as cost-to-cure (see **Tables 6-5** and **6-14**).

Table 6-2. Five-year projected future stream of funds.

SFWMD Projected Funding (2006–2010) (in millions of dollars)						
Funding Source	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**Total**
Florida Forever	$36	$36	$36	$36	$36	$180
SOETF	$100	$100	$100	$100	$100	$500
Total	**$136**	**$136**	**$136**	**$136**	**$136**	**$680**

Note: FY2006 Florida Forever funding was made available by the state in July 2005.

In order to meet the 2006 projected land acquisition funding requirements for eligible projects of nearly $4 billion to complete the planned restorations, the District will be seeking additional funding alternatives, including requesting extended authorization of SOE funding. With respect to the balance of funding to be made available through Florida Forever, the District will likely direct the balance toward completing construction of projects that meet the requirements of the program, but not necessarily land acquisition and management.

SECTION 6-2: REGIONAL OVERVIEW

As outlined in the 2005 SFER (insert 2005 Section link), planning and other activities in the SFWMD are divided among four planning areas – the Kissimmee Basin, the Upper East Coast (UEC), the Lower West Coast (LWC), and the Lower East Coast (LEC). CERP and Kissimmee River projects further segment the planning areas into the nine regions used as the framework for this Florida Forever Work Plan chapter. *Sections 6-3* through 6-*9* of this chapter provide details on each of the regions that comprise this large study area:

- Kissimmee River Region
- Lake Okeechobee Region
- Lower West Coast Region
- Upper East Coast Region
- Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Region
- Everglades, Florida Bay and Keys Region
- Water Preserve Areas Region
- North Palm Beach County Region
- Miami-Dade County Region

1 **PLANNING AREAS**

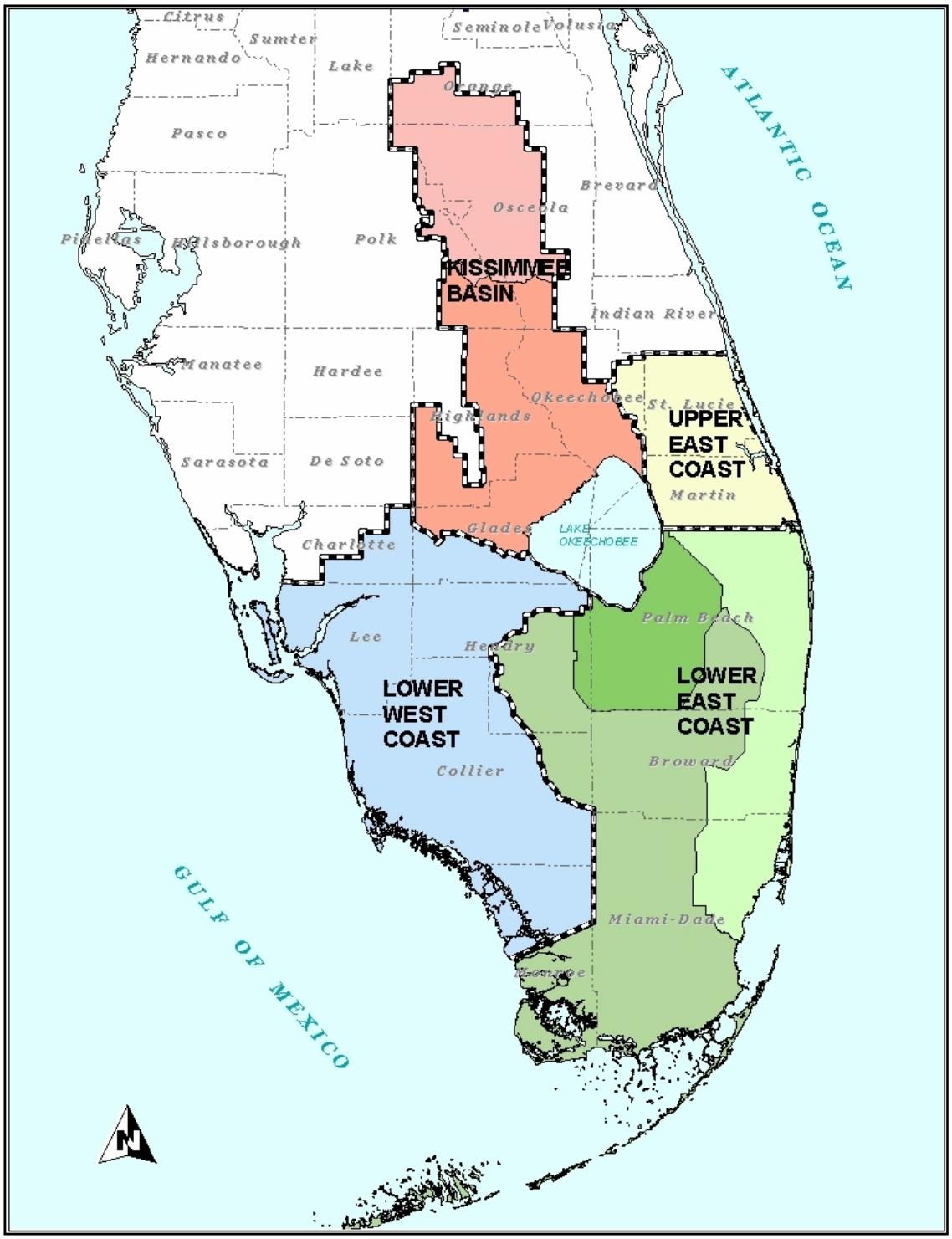

Figure 6-1. Map of the four planning areas within the SFWMD.

FLORIDA FOREVER WORK PLAN REGIONS

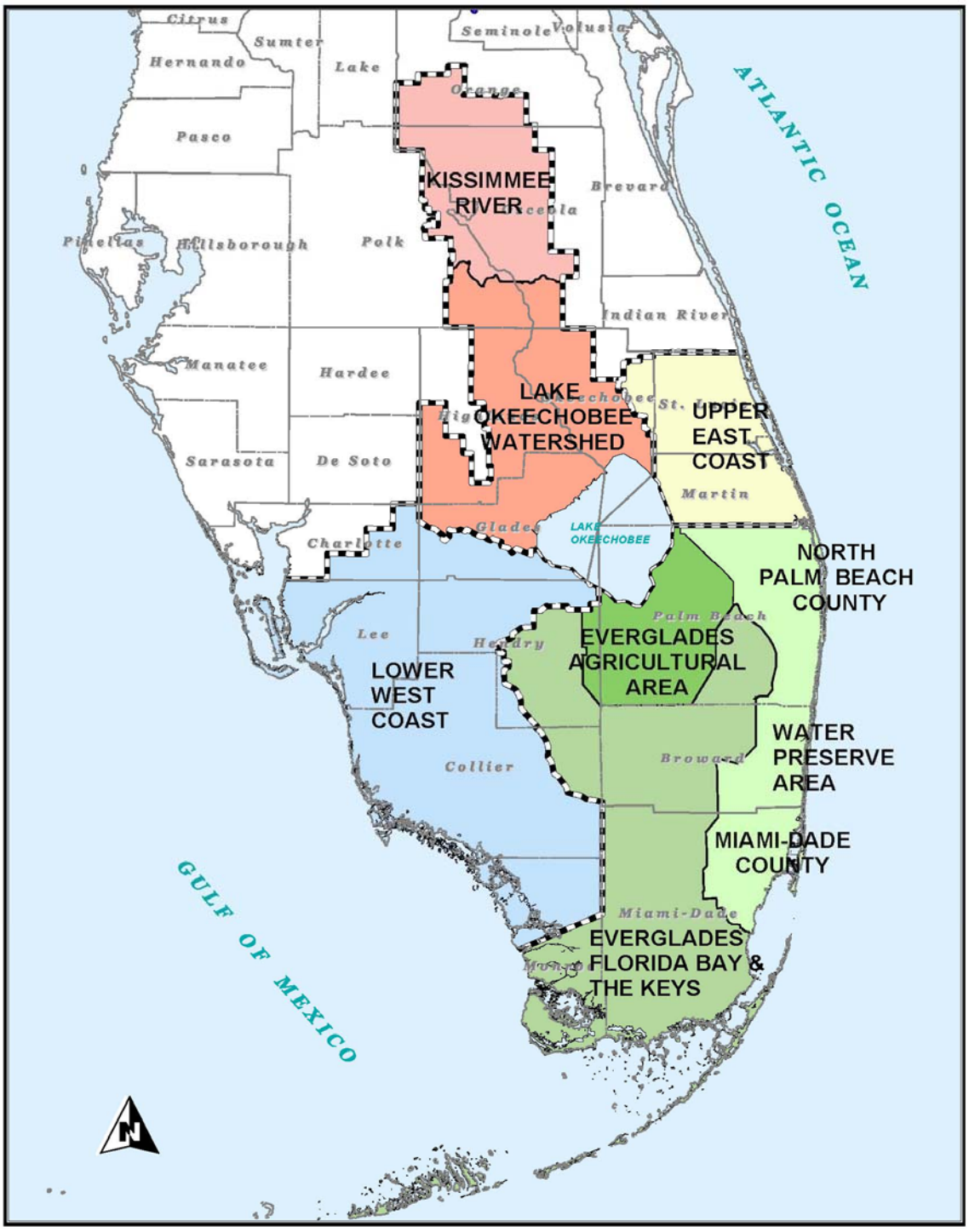

Figure 6-2. Map of CERP and Kissimmee River Regions**.**

SECTION 6-3: KISSIMMEE RIVER REGION

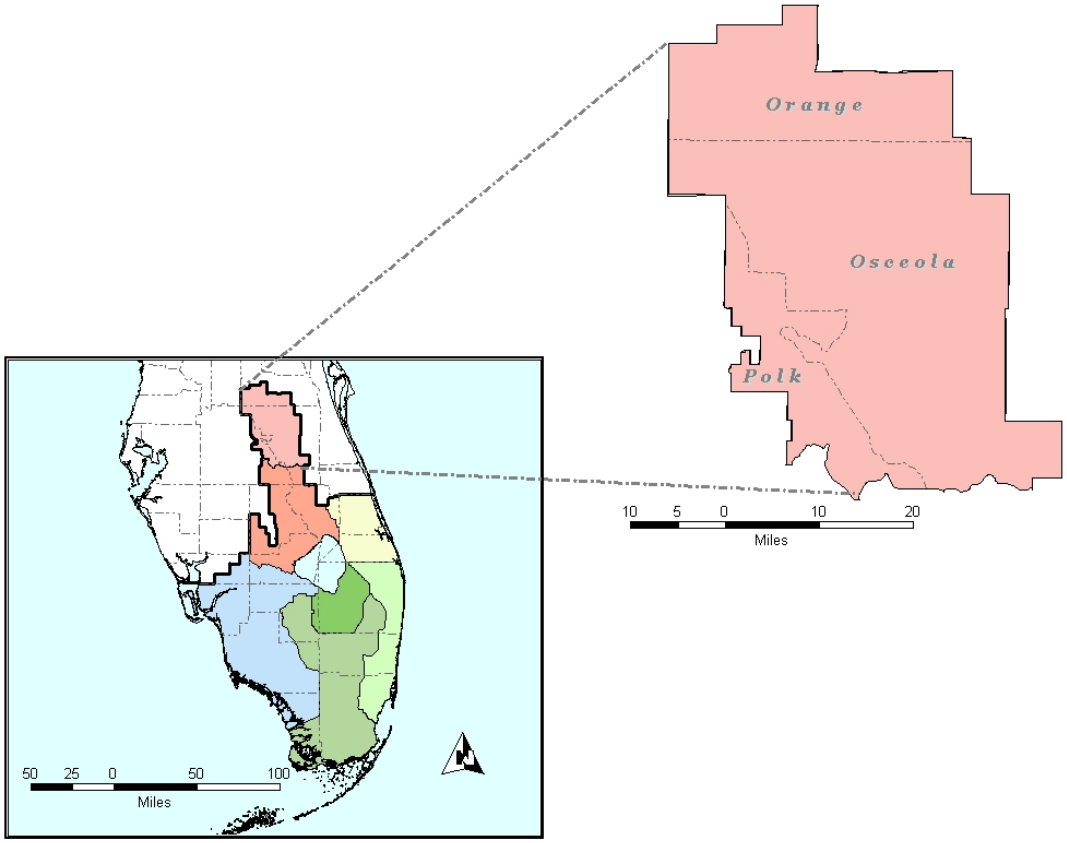

Figure 6-3. Kissimmee River Region.

SUMMARY

This section presents projects in the Kissimmee region that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act (Section 259.105, F.S.) and presents a report on progress and changes to previously presented information since the 2005 SFER submission (insert 2005 Section link). An update on FFWP land acquisition activities that occurred in the Kissimmee region during this reporting period are included in this section.

OVERVIEW OF THE KISSIMMEE REGION

The Kissimmee Region is 3,013 square miles in size and extends from Orlando southward to Lake Okeechobee (**Figure 6-3**). The Kissimmee Watershed is 105 miles long and a maximum of 35 miles wide; it is the largest watershed providing surface water to Lake Okeechobee (**Figure 6-4**).

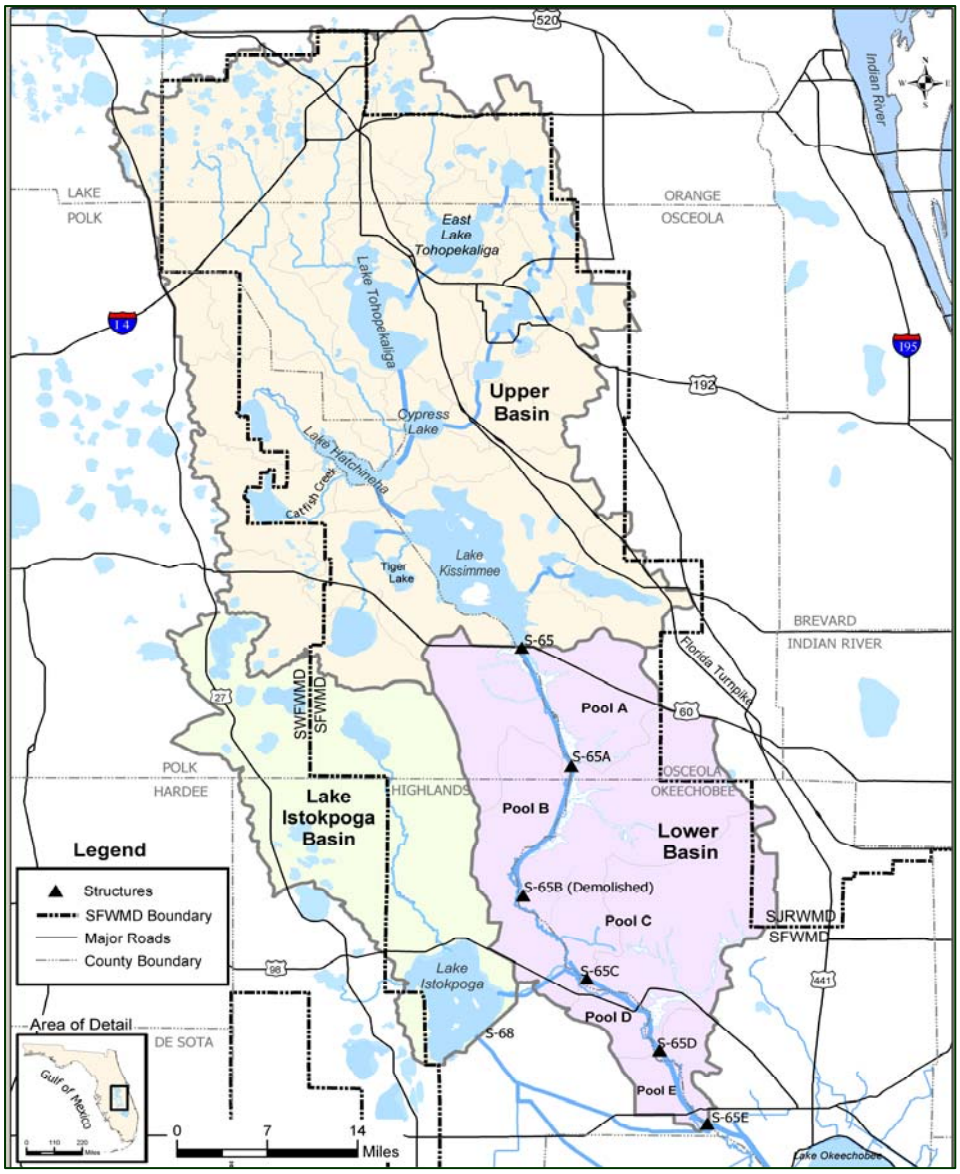

Figure 6-4. Kissimmee River location map.

The watershed includes portions of Orange, Osceola, Polk, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties. It is divided into three parts:

1. The Upper Basin, which covers 1,633 square miles, includes Lake Kissimmee and the East and West Chain of Lakes areas in Orange and Osceola counties; and resides within the Kissimmee region **(Figure 6-3)**.
2. The Lower Basin covers 758 square miles and includes the tributary watershed of the Kissimmee River, between the outlet of Lake Kissimmee and Lake Okeechobee; and resides within the Lake Okeechobee Watershed region **(Figure 6-5)**.
3. The Lake Istokpoga Basin covers 622 square miles and provides tributary inflow to the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee.

WATER QUALITY – KISSIMMEE RIVER REGION

Several planned and ongoing environmental restoration projects are expected to be completed, which would beneficially affect water quality in the Kissimmee Watershed. Of particular importance is the Kissimmee River Restoration Project (including the Headwaters Revitalization and Modified Level II Backfilling projects). The Kissimmee River Restoration Project is expected to result in the restoration of 7,200 acres of former wetlands in the vicinity of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (USACE, 1996) as well as 40 square miles of river/floodplain habitat south of Lake Kissimmee (USACE, 1991). The major components of the Kissimmee River Restoration Project include the following:

- Reestablishment of inflows from Lake Kissimmee that will be similar to historical discharge characteristics (headwaters component)
- Acquisition of 105,095 acres of land in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes and river valley
- Continuous backfilling of 22 miles of canal
- Removal of two water control structures
- Re-carving/reconnecting of more than 40 miles of river channel

PROJECT UPDATE – KISSIMMEE RIVER RESTORATION

Planning, engineering, design, and construction have been initiated. A test backfilling project was initiated in 1994 and completed in September 1994. The restoration project is divided into the following five elements:

1. Restoration Evaluation
2. Headwaters Revitalization
3. Phase I Backfilling
4. Phase II/III Backfilling Projects
5. Phase IV Backfilling Projects

Phase I Backfilling was completed in February 2001. A portion of the Phase IV Backfilling Projects (Phase IVa) was selected for expedited implementation. Phase IVa Backfilling will begin by 2006; the remainder of the Phase IV Backfilling Projects (Phase IVb) will be completed at the end of restoration construction. All construction as well as implementation of the Headwaters Revitalization is scheduled to be completed in 2010. The comprehensive Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation Program, which will continue through 2015, is designed to evaluate the success of the project in meeting the established restoration goals, to provide for continuous, scientifically informed fine-tuning of the construction and adaptive management of the recovering and restored ecosystem. Detailed information regarding the Restoration Evaluation Program can be found in Chapter 11 of the 2006 SFER – Volume I.

Water Management Planning Initiatives

Water management planning efforts in the Kissimmee Basin include a variety of interrelated studies and activities, in both the public and private sectors. Each plan or study addresses unique water management issues while maintaining close relationships with water supply planning, as shown in **Table 6-3**. Ongoing efforts that will help to preserve the water body include the establishment of TMDLs on the river and several lakes in the Kissimmee watershed, and eventually the establishment of a water reservation for this watershed.

Table 6-3. Kissimmee Basin-related water management planning efforts.

Study	Scope/Primary Goal	Time Frames
Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Development and Coordination	Adequate and reliable water supply	Update 2005
Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation	Environmental restoration of Kissimmee River floodplain, improved surface water quality.	2015
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Long-Term Management Plan	Develop recommendations and associated performance measures to improve the health of the Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes ecosystem.	2007

Land Acquisitions for Kissimmee River Restoration

Table 6-4 shows the Kissimmee River Restoration and Headwaters Revitalization project approximate real estate information. The project figures are based on FY2005 reporting figures. Negotiations are ongoing to acquire the remaining acres of land; however, in some instances the rising land values have made several engineering design solutions more cost-effective alternatives to acquiring land**. Table 6-5** provides projected engineered alternatives currently under consideration, should negotiations of a willing seller acquisition become cost prohibitive.

Table 6-4. Kissimmee River restoration approximate real estate acquisition information.

AREA	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
Upper Basin	36,763	35,563	1,200	97%
Lower Basin	68,332	53,958	14,374	80%
Total	**105,095**	**89,521**	**15,574**	**85%**

Table 6-5. Kissimmee River estimated expenditure for construction in lieu of real estate acquisition, also known as cost-to-cure.

Project	Cost (FY2006-20010)[1]
KRR – Packingham Slough Flood Protection	$1,154,000
Catfish Creek Restoration	$250,000
Basinger Groove Flood	$14,000,000
Hidden Acres remaining, River Ranch, Bronson, FPL, Hyatt Farms, Mack Farms, and Grape Hammock Fish Camp	$23,154,000
TOTAL	**$38,558,000**

The SFWMD has been purchasing lands for Kissimmee River Restoration and the Headwaters Revitalization Project since the mid to late '80s. Lands have been purchased to facilitate changes in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes regulatory schedule. Raising lake levels will allow the SFWMD to store more water to be available to the newly restored Kissimmee River sections throughout the year. These additional waters are necessary to provide year-round flow to the restored sections of the river. Lands have been purchased in the Lower Basin, Pools A, B, C, and D, as a project requirement to restore the floodplain and reestablish the remnant river oxbows and segments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defined the fee and easement criteria and requirements for the project at its inception. For the Upper Basin, the criteria specify all lands at or below the 54-ft NGVD elevation are to be acquired because they will be impacted. In the Lower Basin, the criteria is topographical. Lands at or below the 5-year flood elevation are to be acquired in fee, whereas lands between the five- and 100-year flood elevations are to be purchased as flowage easements. In addition, access and temporary construction easements have been identified by USACE as necessary for the project implementation. As such, the total acreage of 105,095 is subject to change upon final audit of project lands requested and acquired for the project.

The SFWMD is committed to acquire all project lands identified by USACE for the project by FY2006 (see *Section 6-10*), including Chandler Slough, if USACE still requires it as part of the project. This land acquisition program is a strategic priority for the District. Due to project schedule and rising land values, the acquisitions need to be completed as soon as possible.

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE KISSIMMEE RIVER REGION

- Kissimmee Water Supply Plan Development and Coordination
- Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation
- Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Long-Term Management Plan
- Kissimmee River Restoration Project

SECTION 6-4: LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED REGION

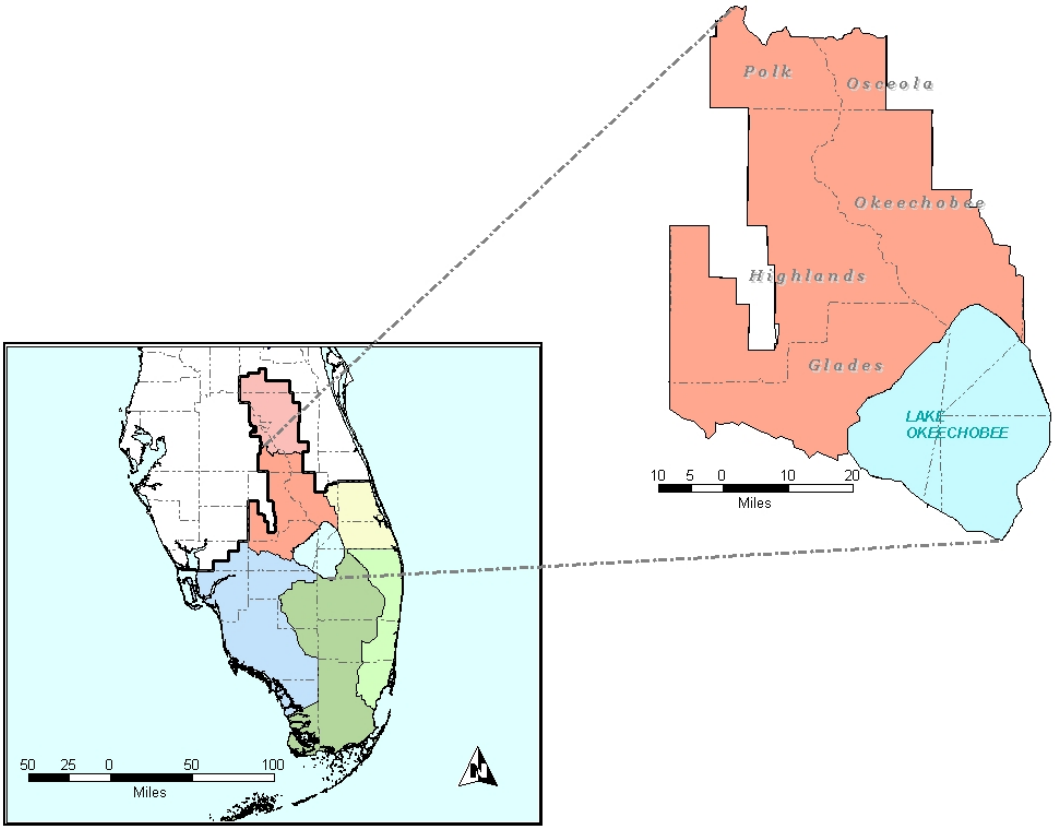

Figure 6-5. Lake Okeechobee Watershed Region.

SUMMARY

The report briefly summarizes projects in the Lake Okeechobee watershed that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Work Act (Section 259.105, F.S.), and presents progress on the major efforts reported since publication of the 2005 SFER (insert 2005 Section link) (2005 SFER).

Lake Okeechobee faces three major environmental challenges: (1) excessive phosphorus loads, (2) unnaturally high and low water levels, and (3) rapid spread of exotic and nuisance plants in the littoral zone. The District, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), USACE, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are working cooperatively to address the above environmental issues and enhance the lake's ecosystem.

While the source of excessive loads of phosphorus normally originate from agricultural and urban activities, three hurricanes of 2004 (Charley, Frances, and Jeanne) directly impacted the watershed and increased phosphorus loadings to more than four times the recently established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). During the three months of August through October 2004,

the lake received a volume of water equivalent to an average water year inflow, and also received 86 percent of the total phosphorus load for the water year.

The lake water levels increased by 5.75 feet (ft), from a low of 12.27 ft on August 1, 2004 to a high of 18.02 ft on October 13, 2004. Large amounts of phosphorus-laden mud sediments were resuspended from the central region of the lake, from the hurricane impacts as well as subsequent cold fronts, and distributed throughout the lake, resulting in low light levels that diminished the submerged aquatic vegetation and impacted the littoral zone. To improve the light levels, discharges of water in pulses were continued from mid-November to present. Pulsed releases continued beyond this time period to maintain water level reductions.

OVERVIEW OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED REGION

The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Region resides in the lower portion of the Kissimmee Basin Planning Region (**Figure 6-5**) and the Lake Okeechobee watershed (**Figure 6-6**) encompasses the entire region.

Lake Okeechobee lies 30 miles west of the Atlantic coast and 60 miles east of the Gulf of Mexico, in the central part of the peninsula. Lake Okeechobee is a broad shallow lake occurring as a bedrock depression. The lake has a surface area of 730 square miles, and is the largest lake in Florida and the Southeast United States.

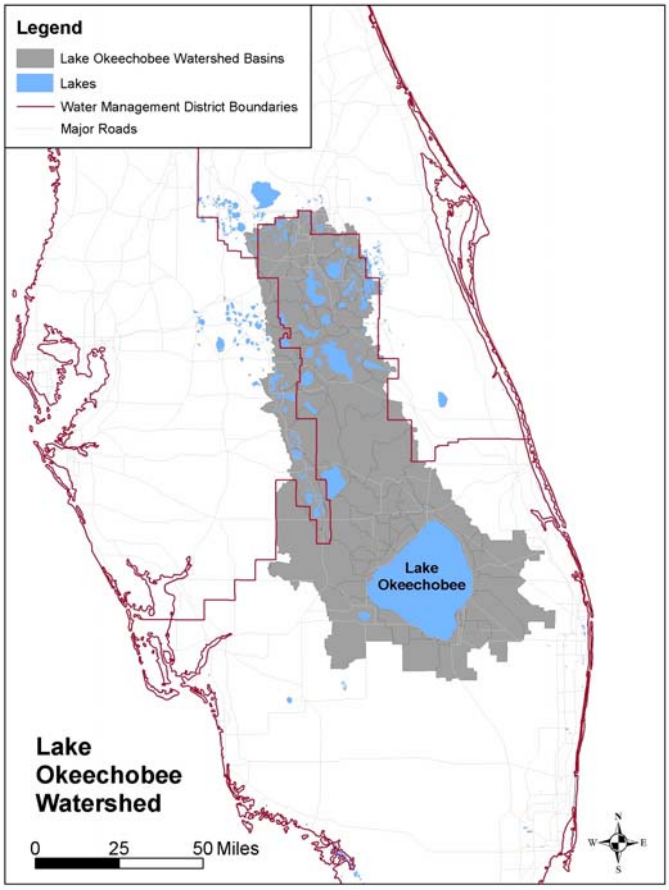

Figure 6-6. Lake Okeechobee watershed.

The waters of Lake Okeechobee are impounded by a system of encircling levees, which form a multipurpose facility for navigation, water supply, flood control, and recreation. Pumping stations and control structures in the levee along Lake Okeechobee are designed to move water either into or out of the lake as needed.

Surface water inflows include the Kissimmee River, Lake Istokpoga, Fisheating Creek, and Taylor Creek that flow into the lake from the north and west. Outflows include the Caloosahatchee River that flows out of the lake to the west; the St. Lucie and West Palm Beach canals that flow out of the lake to the east; and the Hillsboro, North New River and Miami canals that flow out of Lake Okeechobee to the south.

Water Quality - Lake Okeechobee Watershed Region

Lake Okeechobee is a naturally eutrophic water body that has become hypereutrophic, primarily due to nutrient inputs from the Kissimmee River and Taylor Creek basins. Large quantities of nutrients are discharged from Lake Tohopekaliga to Lake Kissimmee and other downstream receiving waters. Water quality improves from Lake Kissimmee to near Lake Okeechobee, where the Kissimmee River channel flows mostly through natural rangeland; however, pollutant loadings increase as cattle and dairies grow more numerous near the lake. Because the lake's phosphorus is internally recycled and a vast reservoir of the nutrient is stored in wetland and canal sediments, phosphorus within the lake may not reach acceptable levels for many decades after external loads are substantially reduced.

Under the Lake Okeechobee Protection Act (LOPA), which was passed by the state legislature in 2000, the SFWMD, FDEP, and FDACS were mandated to reduce phosphorus loads to meet the required TMDL, and to control exotic species expansion. The Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan (LOPP) was developed in 2004 to address these issues. More current information regarding the current status of LOPA agricultural and non-agricultural projects, including research and studies, can be found in Chapter 10 of the 2006 SFER – Volume I,.

In addition, the SFWMD and USACE are implementing components of CERP that will address, in part, excessive phosphorus loads, and provide alternative storage locations so that water levels in the lake can be regulated in a manner that has greater environmental benefits while still supporting water supply and other water resource functions.

PROJECT UPDATE – LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED REGION

Lake Okeechobee Urban Stormwater Retrofit

Non-agricultural BMPs being implemented under the direction of the FDEP include sediment traps, grassed swales, and reduced P fertilizer in residential communities to improve water quality (see Chapter 10 of 2006 SFER – Volume I).

Lemkin Creek is located on the northwest corner of Lake Okeechobee and accepts drainage from both agricultural areas as well as urban areas in unincorporated Okeechobee County. The project lies outside of the four priority basins in basin 133. The Lemkin Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility **(Figure 6-7)** is currently comprised of three parcels. Two of the parcels are currently in real estate negotiations, the third parcel is owned by the state. The northern two parcels (67 acres total) are comprised mainly of abandoned mining pits, and the third parcel (68 acres) is abandoned pasture land. Phase 2 of the project will consist of a fourth 90-acre parcel to increase water storage.

The intent of the project is to capture urban stormwater drainage from the north by installing a diversion structure and/or pump station within Wolff Ditch. The two northern rock pits parcels will have a perimeter dike installed and water levels raised within these boundaries by pumping diverted stormwater into the storage facility. Water will then be gravity discharged to the south parcel and be allowed to sheetflow across it and eventually enter Lemkin Creek. This project is not designed as an STA because of the depth of the existing rock pits, but some water quality improvement is anticipated.

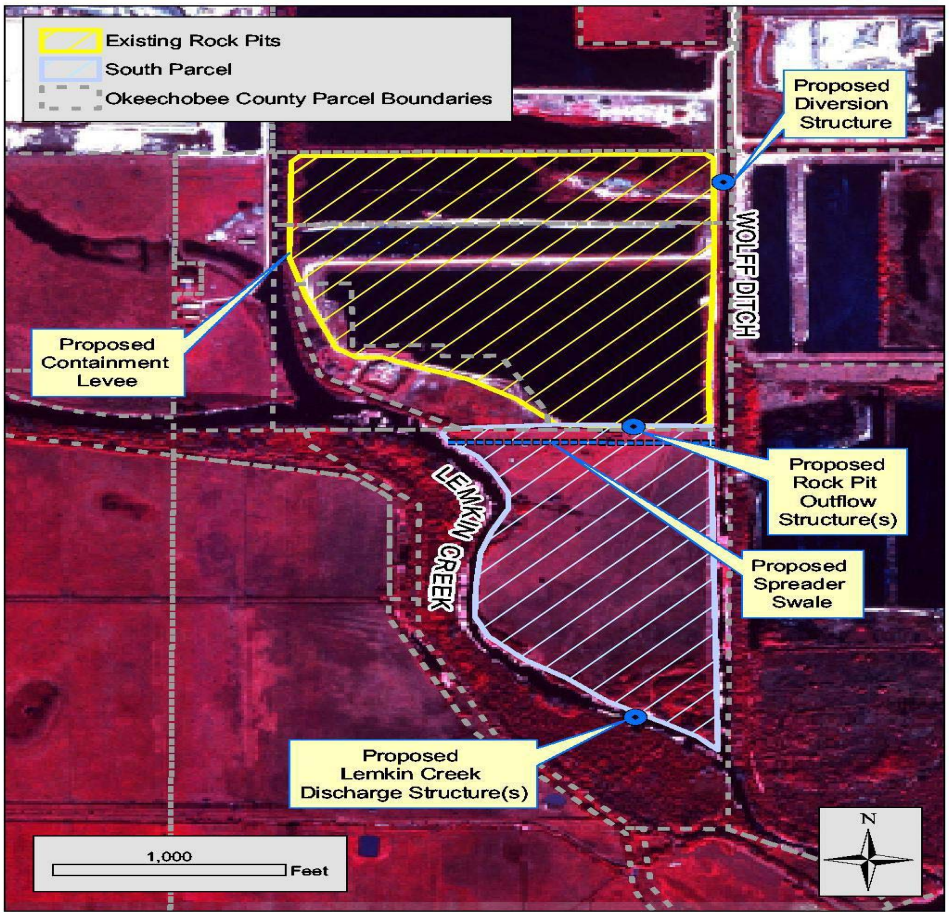

Figure 6-7. Lemkin Creek Water Storage Treatment Facility.

Table 6-6. Lake Okeechobee Watershed Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
North Lake Okeechobee Storage Reservoir	20,000	0	20,000	0%
Lake Okeechobee Tributary Sediment Dredging	320	0	320	0%
Lake Okeechobee Watershed Quality Treatment Facilities	7,875	0	7,875	0%
Taylor Creek/Nubbins Slough Storage	10,000	7,515	2,485	75%
Lake Okeechobee ASR Phase 1	100	0	100	0%
Lake Okeechobee ASR Phase 2	100	0	100	0%
Lake Okeechobee ASR Phase 3	100	0	100	0%
Lemkin Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility – Phase 1	70	0	70	0
Lemkin Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility – Phase 2	90	0	90	0
Total	**38,495**	**7,515**	**30,980**	**20%**

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERSHED REGION

- CERP – Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project
- CERP – Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot
- Okeechobee County
- Lake Istokpoga
- Lemkin Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility

SECTION 6-5: LOWER WEST COAST REGION

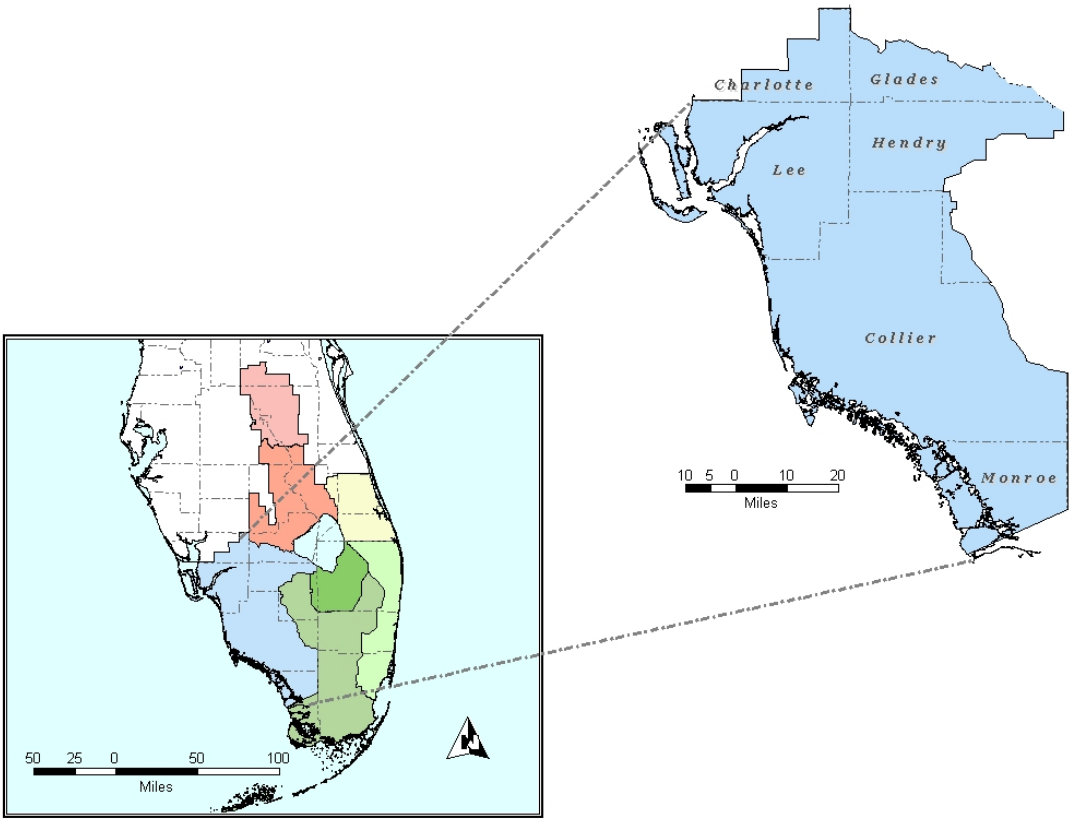

Figure 6-8. Lower West Coast Region.

SUMMARY

This section presents projects in the Lower West Coast Region that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act and a report on progress and changes to previously presented information since the 2005 SFER submission. An update on FFWP land acquisition activities that occurred in the Lower West Coast Region during this reporting period are included in this section.

OVERVIEW OF LOWER WEST COAST REGIONS

The Lower West Coast Region covers 5,129 square miles in Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Collier counties, and a portion of Charlotte and mainland Monroe counties (**Figure 6-8**). This area is generally bounded by Charlotte County to the north, Lake Okeechobee and the EAA to the east, the Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) to the south, and the Gulf of Mexico to the west. The area is characterized by the sandy flatlands region of Lee County, which gives way to sandy though more rolling terrain in Hendry County and the coastal marshes and mangrove swamps of Collier County. The surface drainage of the region is primarily achieved by natural sloughs and man-made canals to the Caloosahatchee River, Estero Bay, Naples Bay, Rookery Bay, and the Faka Union Bay.

The Caloosahatchee River Basin (see **Figure 6-9**) includes an area of 860 square miles in parts of Lee, Glades, Charlotte, and Hendry counties. From a hurricane gate on the southwest shore of Lake Okeechobee at Moore Haven, the Caloosahatchee Canal drains westerly for about 5 miles through a very flat terrain into Lake Hicpochee. From there the canal joins the upper reach of the Caloosahatchee River. On its way to the Gulf of Mexico, the river is controlled by navigation locks at Ortona (15 miles downstream from Moore Haven) and at Olga, near Fort Myers. Downstream from Ortona Lock, many tributaries join the river along its course to the gulf. The Caloosahatchee River serves as a portion of the cross-state Okeechobee Waterway, which extends from Stuart on the east coast, via the St. Lucie Canal, through Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River to Fort Myers on the Gulf of Mexico. The river has been straightened by channelization through most of its 65-mile course from the Moore Haven Lock to Fort Myers.

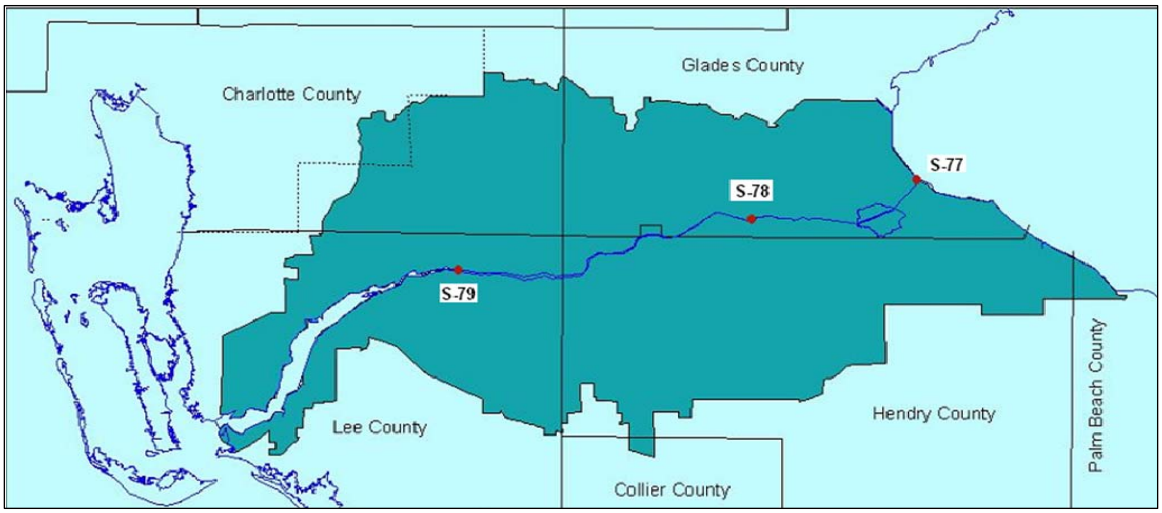

Figure 6-9. Caloosahatchee Basin map.

The J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Complex includes Pine Island NWR, Island Bay NWR, Matlacha Pass NWR, and Caloosahatchee NWR, all located on the lower west coast. The health of the estuarine ecosystem they embody is directly tied to the water quality and quantity, and timing of flows from the Caloosahatchee Watershed and the watersheds that drain into the Caloosahatchee River (i.e., the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee watersheds).

South of the Caloosahatchee River Basin, a tributary network of the Estero River and Imperial River drain to Estero Bay. The rapidly urbanizing area of southern Lee County is primarily drained through the Estero and Imperial rivers. In 1995 there was significant flooding in the area. Potential for severe flooding has been somewhat reduced through implementation of the South Lee County Watershed Plan, and improvement of the conveyance capacity of the Imperial River. However, the characteristics of runoff – quantity, quality, and timing – have been affected by an urbanized landscape.

South of the Estero Bay watershed, a 1,200-square-mile area of western Collier County is rapidly urbanizing from a variegated landscape of wetlands and agricultural uplands. This watershed also contains several pristine natural areas, such as the Fakahatchee Strand, Corkscrew Swamp, Lake Trafford Picayune Strand, Belle-Meade, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, and a vast expanse of coastal wetlands covering Rookery Bay and the Ten Thousand Islands

National Wildlife Refuge. The overall drainage of the urbanizing area is presently achieved by a network of man-made canals. Most of the natural areas have been acquired under public ownership.

Big Cypress Swamp spans 1,205 square miles from southwest of Lake Okeechobee to the Ten Thousand Islands in the Gulf of Mexico. The 570,000-acre BCNP was established by Public Law 93-440 in 1974 to protect natural and recreational values of the Big Cypress Watershed and to allow for continued traditional uses such as hunting, fishing, and oil and gas production. It was also established to provide an ecological buffer zone and protect the ENP water supply. In 1988, Congress passed the BCNP Addition Act (Additions), which added 228 square miles to the preserve.

PROJECT UPDATE – LOWER WEST COAST REGION

Southern CREW / Imperial River Flowway

This project is located in southern Lee County bordering the western boundary of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW). The environmentally sensitive area east of Bonita Springs has been altered by the construction of roads, house pads, agricultural berms, and ditches. These alterations have resulted in restriction of historical sheetflow, unnatural water impoundment and flooding, increased pollutant loading to the Imperial River and Estero River, and disruption of natural wetland functions. The project involves acquisition of 4,670 acres and restoration of historic sheetflow by removal of canal and road berms, home pads, and ditches. The project also involves replacement of the Imperial Bonita Estates Bridge and modifications to the Kehl Canal Weir.

The project is divided into three phases. Phase I consists of construction of the Kehl Canal Weir Modification. Phase II consists of land acquisition and restoration of historic flows over Sections 25, 26, 35, 36, and the southeast quarter of Section 24, Township 47S, and Range 26E, totaling 2,720 acres. Phase III consists of land acquisition and restoration of historic flows over Sections 32, 33, and 34, Township 47S, Range 26E, and the flow-way starting at Section 32 downstream to Matheson Street, totaling 2,040 acres. The estimated project cost is $26.1 million of which $12.1 million will be cost-shared under a Project Cooperative Agreement with the USACE, and the remaining $14 million for land acquisition will be cost-shared under a separate agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI). Land acquisition is 80 to 90 percent complete, with restoration 50 to 75 percent complete. Restoration consists of road and swale removal as well as management of exotics in the area. Additional information is available online at http://www.evergladesplan.org/.

C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir

The C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir project will improve water deliveries to the Caloosahatchee Estuary, provide dry season flows, restore downstream salinity levels, and ensure the availability of water for the natural system needs of the Caloosahatchee Estuarine System. Improvements in the distribution of water should result in improvements to the timing, quality, and quantity of water deliveries to the inland ecosystems. Once the demands of the estuary are met, additional water resource benefits could be achieved by providing supplemental water resources for agriculture and urban users, resulting in a reduction of demands placed on surface and ground water resources. Potential sites have been identified for locating project features (see **Figure 6-10)**; and several alternative plans have been developed and are being evaluated in order to select the most beneficial plan for the basin. The C-43 West Reservoir component has been initiated under the Acceler8 Program **(Figure 6-11)**.

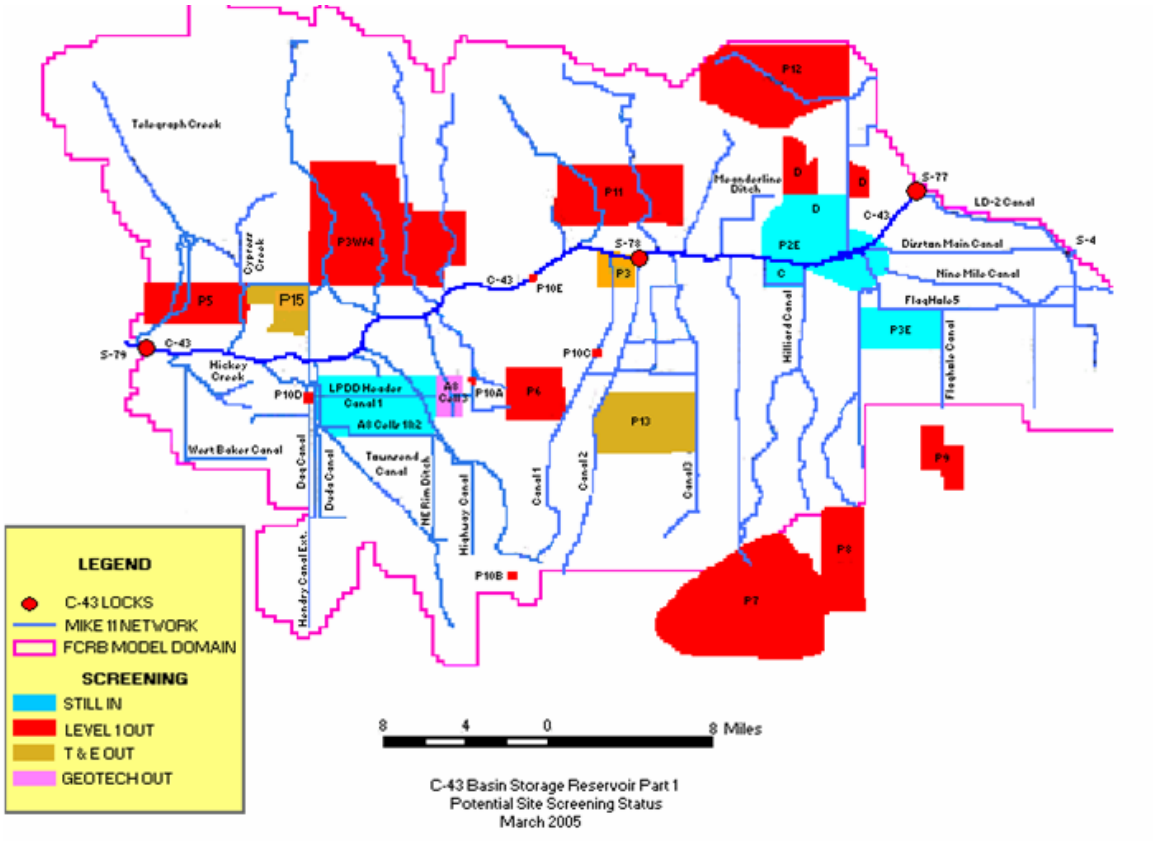

Figure 6-10. Potential site screening map.

C-43 West Reservoir (Acceler8)

The objective of the C-43 West Storage Reservoir is to provide water supply for the Caloosahatchee Estuary, water supply benefits for agriculture and urban users, and some water quality benefits. Development of the C-43 West Storage Reservoir will attempt to maintain consistency with the design objectives established for the C-43 Basin Project Implementation Report (PIR) as prepared by the USACE. When completed and operational, the C-43 West Storage Reservoir will provide a mechanism for the SFWMD to capture seasonal flows from the basin and river, and release stored water during the dry season. More information regarding this project is available at http://www.evergladesnow.org.

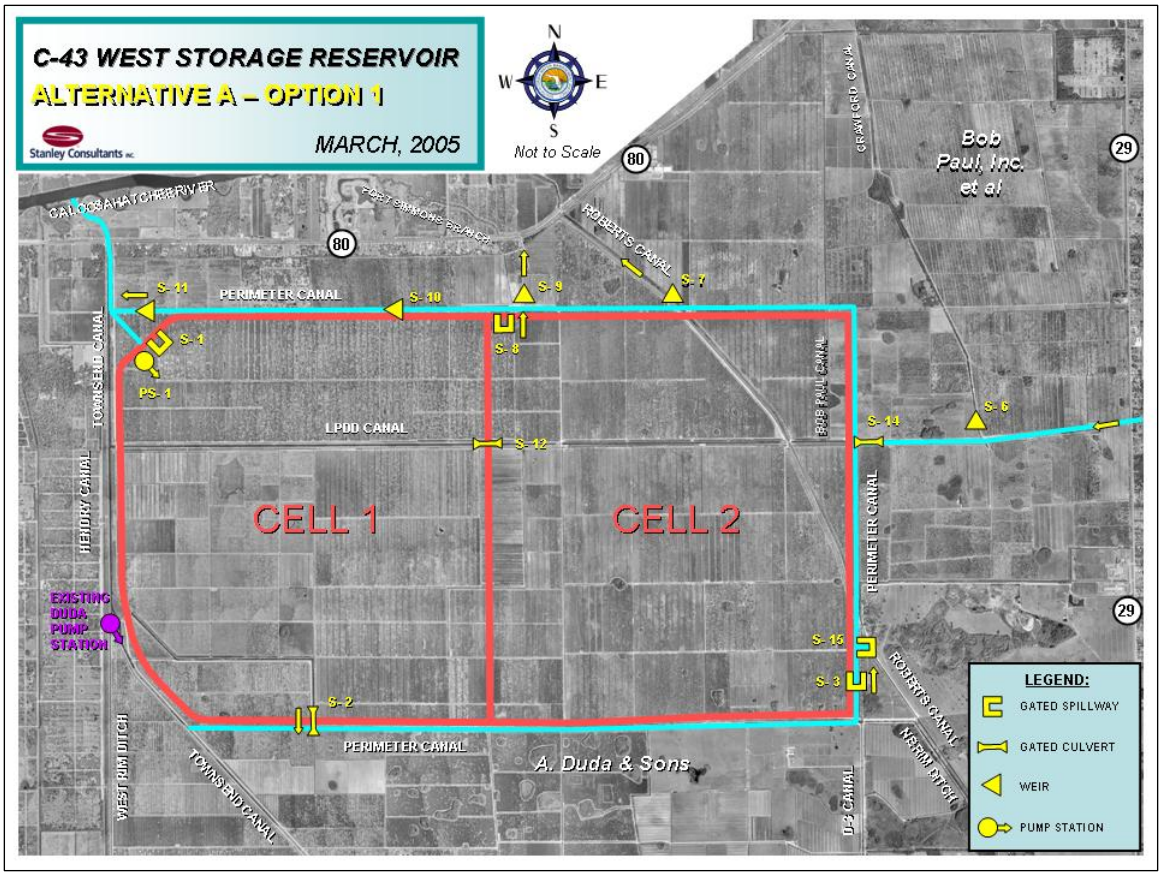

Figure 6-11. C-43 Basin West Reservoir map (Acceler8).

Picayune Strand Restoration Project (formerly know as Southern Golden Gate Estates Restoration)

The Picayune Strand Restoration Project encompasses an area of sensitive environmental land located in southwestern Collier County. It is located southwest of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, north of the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, east of the South Belle Meade project, a state Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) project, west of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, and northeast of Collier-Seminole State Park. The South Belle Meade CARL project, known simply as "Belle Meade," and the Southern Golden Gate Estates CARL project have been combined to form the Picayune Strand State Forest. The central location of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project among all of these nature preserves and wildlife areas reflects its importance to the ecosystem connectivity of the entire region. The

Picayune Strand Restoration Project (**Figure 6-12**) is a unique restoration opportunity. The plans for the project remove the infrastructure of a 55,247-acre failed subdivision and restore its pre-drainage hydrology and ecology. Restoration of this part of Southwest Florida will tie all of these critical natural habitats together, generating positive effects on the hydrology, vegetation, and wildlife in the project area and surrounding public lands, while reestablishing the sheetflow to the downstream estuarine systems.

During the Project Implementation Plan development it was determined that impacts from the restoration of Southern Golden Gate Estates (Picayune Strand State Forest) will be realized in both Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and the Belle Meade acquisition area (South Belle Meade), which will necessitate the acquisition of flow-way easements for those parcels that are still in private ownership within the boundaries of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and the

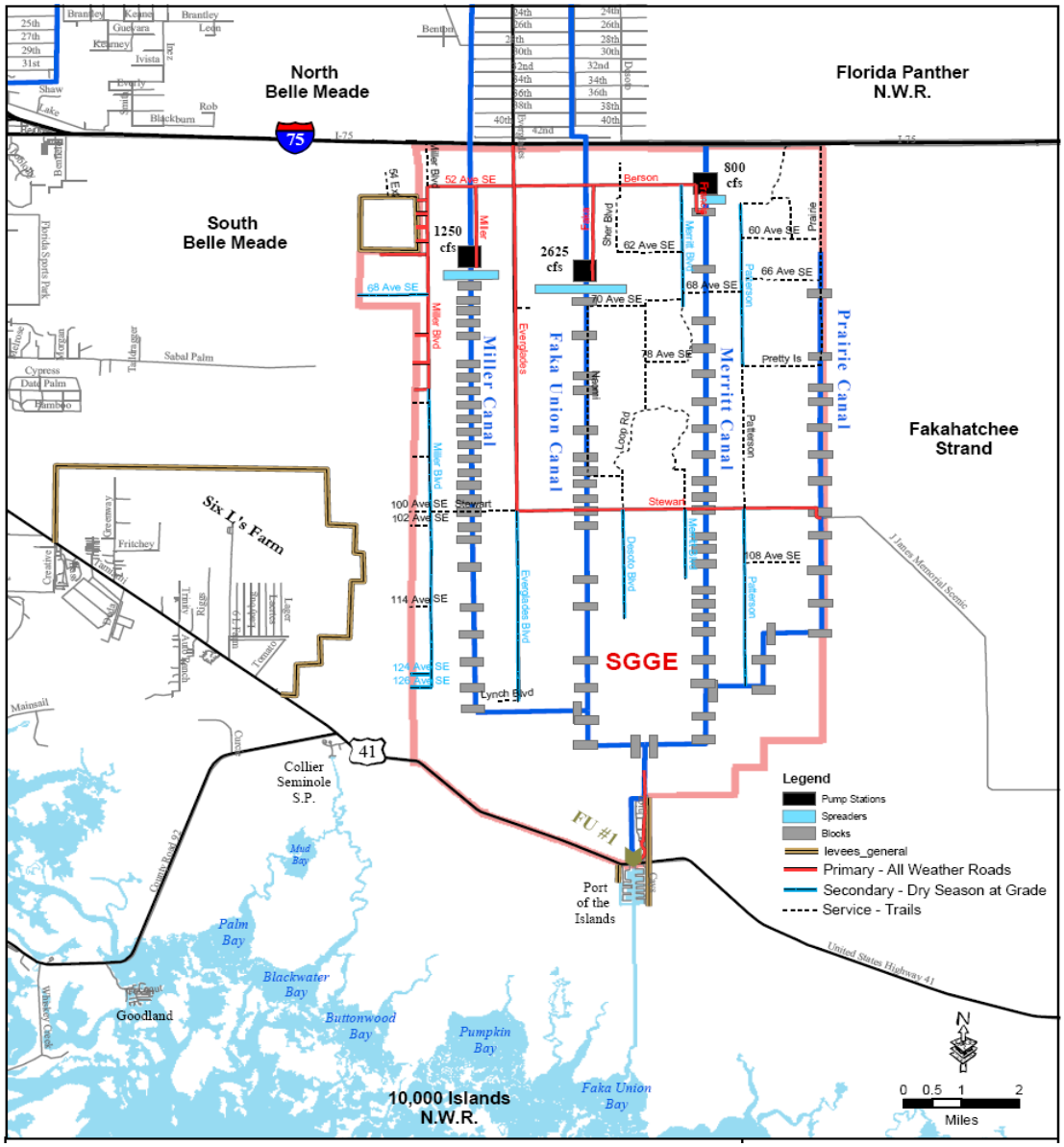

Figure 6-12. Picayune Strand Restoration Project map.

Belle Meade acquisition area. Additional information regarding the project and other Acceler8 projects can be found at http://www.evergladesplan.org/ and http://evergladesnow.org.

LAND ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES IN THE LOWER WEST COAST REGION

Table 6-7. Lower West Coast Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir Project	9,961	2,866	7095	28%
C-43 West Reservoir	10,039	9,565	474	95%
Caloosahatchee Backpumping with Stormwater Treatment	5,000	0	5,000	0%
Big Cypress/ L-28 Interceptor Modifications	1,900	0	1,900	0%
Picayune Strand Restoration Project	55,247	55,247	0	100%
Total	**82,147**	**67,678**	**14,469**	**82%**

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE LOWER WEST COAST REGION

- Southern CREW/Imperial River Flowway
- CERP – Basin Storage Reservoir - Part 1
- CERP – C-43 West Reservoir (Acceler8)
- CERP – Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot
- CERP – Caloosahatchee Backpumping with Stormwater Treatment
- CERP – Big Cypress/L-28 Modifications
- CERP – Picayune Strand Restoration Project (formerly know as Southern Golden Gate Estates Restoration Project)
- CERP – Picayune Strand Restoration Project (formerly known as Southern Golden Gate Estates Restoration Project (Acceler8)
- Charlotte Harbor Watershed Initiatives
- Caloosahatchee River Watershed Initiatives
- Western Basin
- Estero Bay Watershed
- Naples Bay Initiative
- Four Corners

SECTION 6-6: UPPER EAST COAST REGION

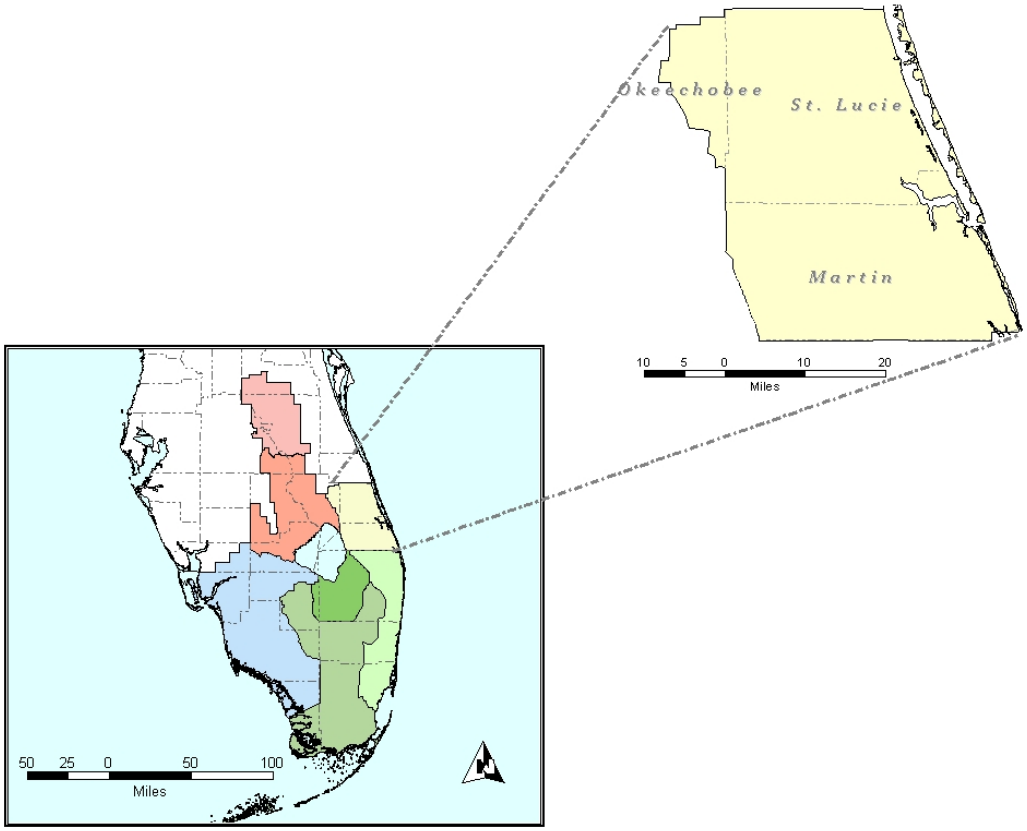

Figure 6-13. Upper East Coast Region.

SUMMARY

This section presents projects in the Upper East Coast Region that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act and presents a report on progress and changes to previously presented information since the 2005 SFER submission. An update on FFWP land acquisition activities that occurred in the Upper East Coast Region during this reporting period (insert 2005 Section link) is included in this section.

OVERVIEW OF THE UPPER EAST COAST REGION

The Upper East Coast Region covers 1,139 square miles and includes most of Martin and St. Lucie counties and eastern Okeechobee County (**Figure 6-13**). The Atlantic Ocean borders Martin and St. Lucie counties to the east, and Lake Okeechobee shares a substantial portion of the Martin County line to the west.

PROJECT UPDATE – UPPER EAST COAST REGION

Indian River Lagoon – South, C-44 Reservoir, and Stormwater Treatment Area (Acceler8)

In late 2004, the Acceler8 program was initiated to accelerate the funding, design, and construction of several CERP projects over the next seven years. One of those accelerated projects is the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area (STA). As a component of the larger Indian River Lagoon South (IRL-S) Project Implementation Report recommended plan, this project consists of a 4,000-acre, 10-ft deep aboveground reservoir that will provide additional water storage for up to 40,000 acre-feet (ac-ft) of C-44 basin flows and a 6,000-acre STA area to capture and treat excess stormwater runoff before returning it to the C-44 canal, and ultimately the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. The acquisition of the 12,000 acres of land for the project is expected to be completed in January 2006, with construction of two reservoir and two stormwater treatment area test cells to begin immediately upon taking title. Major reservoir construction is expected to begin in June 2007. Additional information regarding this project and other Acceler8 projects can be found online at http://xlr8.sfwmd.gov/portal/page?_pageid=35,226325&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL.

Indian River Lagoon – South, Allapattah Complex and Natural Storage and Treatment Area

Approximately 20,500 acres of the 42,348-acre Allapattah Complex and Natural Water Storage and Treatment Area (NWSTA) identified in the IRL-S plan were acquired in 2003 and 2004. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), restoration activities for the former cattle ranch have been initiated. Over 17 miles of ditches on the property were filled or plugged in 2005, exotic plant control activities were continued, and water quality and quantity monitoring was initiated. The project allows for the restoration of wetlands that have been drained for improved pasture and will provide natural attenuation of stormwater within wetland systems, reducing discharges to the C-23 canal and ultimately the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon and increasing habitat diversity through restoration of the wetland/upland mosaic.

Indian River Lagoon – South, C-23/24 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area

The Indian River Lagoon – South Project Implementation Report is complete and was signed by the USACE Division Engineer in August 2004. It is currently undergoing review by the federal Office of Management and Budget and has been included in a potential WRDA 2005 bill for authorization. The project is currently in the preconstruction, engineering, and design phase for the C-23/C-24 reservoirs and STA component. This component will attenuate watershed flows from the C-23 and C-24 basins and provide water quality treatment prior to release through a series of canals to Ten Mile Creek and the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The C-23/24 reservoirs will provide storage of 91,000 ac-ft of water and allow for the diversion of flows from the current discharge at middle estuary to the North Fork of the SLE. Acquisition of the land for the 2,568-acre stormwater treatment area is complete and 5,500 acres for the proposed 8,550-acre reservoirs have been acquired. Initial design activities in the form of preliminary survey, geotechnical and cultural resource investigations have been initiated. More information regarding the Indian River Lagoon – South PIR can be found at www.evergladesplan.org.

.

WATER QUALITY – UPPER EAST COAST

Several ongoing watershed management/planning programs in the Upper East Coast (UEC) and Indian River Lagoon (IRL) areas are expected to be completed, which will beneficially affect water quality conditions in the St. Lucie River and Estuary, IRL, and other freshwater bodies in the area. The SFWMD IRL SWIM team has developed numerous programs and objectives to improve water quality conditions in the area. Many of the water quality remediation activities implemented by the SWIM Plan focus on reducing agricultural pollutant loads in the IRL watershed, and urban/suburban pollutant loads in the rapidly developing coastal region surrounding the St. Lucie Estuary and IRL. Implementation of more environmentally sensitive Lake Okeechobee regulation schedules should also reduce pollutant loading to the St. Lucie Estuary/IRL systems. The IRL National Estuary Program, jointly administered by the USEPA and the state of Florida, will also result in water quality improvement activities and a reduction of pollutant loads to the IRL in the future. In summary, as a result of these ongoing watershed management programs, water quality in the UEC is expected to improve in the future.

In early 1998 El Niño rains filled Lake Okeechobee causing maximum discharges to the SLE and IRL and a general decline in the health of the entire estuarine system. As a result, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group formed the St. Lucie River Issues Team, representing seventeen different stakeholder groups whose purpose was to develop federal, state, and stakeholder consensus on an action plan to immediately accelerate progress toward improving water quality and habitat quality in the SLE. For the past six years, the St. Lucie River Issues Team has solicited, ranked, and submitted projects to the Florida legislature for funding and to date has received $30.5 million from the legislature and an additional $2 million from the federal government, funding over 76 individual projects in Martin and St. Lucie counties and their municipalities for a total project cost of $65,000,000. The 2006 proposed project list includes 20 projects equaling more than $6 million to be implemented by a variety of local, state, and federal agencies.

LAND ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES IN THE UPPER EAST COAST REGION

Table 6-8. Upper East Coast Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
C-44 Reservoir	3,315	0	3,315	0%
C-44 East STA	3,000	0	3,000	0%
C-44 West STA	3,000	0	3,000	0%
C- 23/24 South Reservoir	4,155	3,293	862	79%
C-23/C-24 STA	2,568	2,789	(221)	109%
C-23/24 North Reservoir	4,399	2,278	2,121	52%
C-25 Reservoir STA	904	0	904	0%
Pal Mar Complex & Southfolk	17,143	5,197	11,946	30%
Allapattah Complex	42,348	20,948	21,400	49%
Cypress Creek Complex	32,639	1,233	31,406	4%
Muck Remediation & Artificial Habitat	640	0	640	0%
North Fork Flood Plain Restoration	3,089	482	2,607	16%
Total	**117,200**	**36,220**	**71,024**	**31%**

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE UPPER EAST COAST REGION

- CERP - Indian River Lagoon – South (IRL-S)
- CERP - C-44 Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area (Acceler8)
- Indian River Lagoon (IRL) SWIM Plan
- St. Lucie River Issue Team

SECTION 6-7: EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA REGION

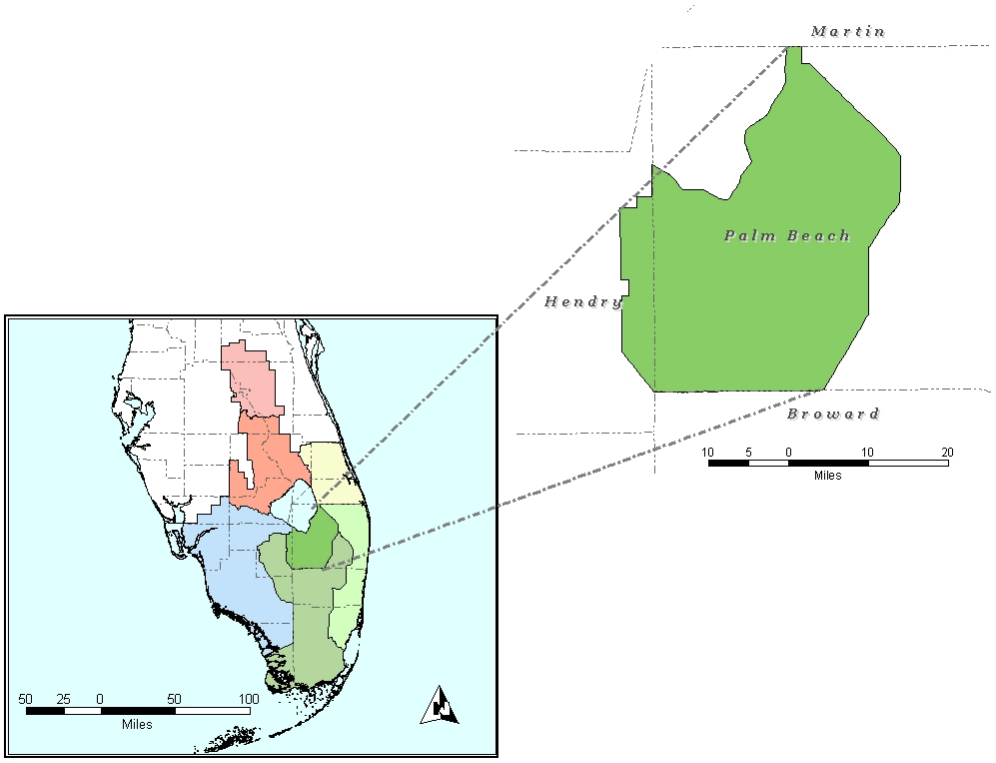

Figure 6-14. Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Region.

SUMMARY

This section presents projects in the Everglades Agricultural Area region that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act, and presents a report on progress and changes since the 2005 SFER submission. An update on FFWP land acquisition activities that occurred in the Everglades Agricultural Area during this reporting period are included in this section.

OVERVIEW OF EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA REGION

The lands located immediately south and southeast of the Lake Okeechobee in the SFWMD are known as the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) (**Figure 6-14**). The primary canals consist of the Miami, the North New River, the Hillsboro, and the West Palm Beach canals, which traverse the area north to south; and the Bolles and Cross canals, which extend east to west.

PROJECT UPDATE – EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA REGION

Everglades Forever Act (EFA)

The Everglades Forever Act's principal water quality treatment strategy for improving water quality in the Everglades Protection Area centers around five requirements — the Everglades Construction Project (ECP), EAA Best Management Practices (BMP) Regulatory Program, Everglades research and monitoring program, evaluation of water quality standards, and long-term water quality improvement strategies — as part of state compliance permits.

The ECP consists of six large constructed wetland treatment facilities, or STAs, containing 44,000 acres of land previously used for agricultural and other purposes. These areas are designed to treat runoff from the EAA and other sources prior to discharge into the Everglades Protection Area.

Design of the ECP was initiated in 1994 and construction began in 1997. STA-6 Section 1 was completed in October 1997 and flow-through operation was initiated in December 1997. Construction of STA-1 West included a 2,900-acre expansion of the existing Everglades Nutrient Removal Project, and start-up operation of the new area began in March 1999. Start-up operation of STA-2 began in June 1999. STA-5 construction was completed in December 1998. STA-3/4 began start-up operations in October 2003 and flow-through operations followed soon thereafter. STA-1 East began start-up operations in 2005 with flow-through operations to follow.

Another component of the ECP is the diversion of runoff from five special districts (four Chapter 298 districts and the 715 Farms Area established under Florida Statutes). These special districts are located adjacent to Lake Okeechobee north of the EAA. The last of these five diversion projects, the South Florida Conservancy District, was completed in 2005.

As described in Chapter 3 of the 2006 SFER – Volume I, the EAA basin has been in compliance with the Everglades Regulatory Program of BMPs for ten years since the first compliance year, Water Year 1996 (WY1996) (May 1, 1995 through April 30, 1996). The EAA basin is required to reduce total phosphorus (TP) loads by 25 percent when compared to the pre-BMP base period. Over the ten years since the program's initiation, the EAA's annual percentage load reduction average is greater than 50 percent.

Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals (Long-Term Plan)

The projects in the Long-Term Plan were designed to achieve compliance with the water quality standards for the EPA by December 31, 2006. One of the key assumptions during the development of the Long-Term Plan was that Compartments B and C **(**see **Figure 6-15)** would be under consideration for use as part of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project through FY2010 and for this reason should not be considered for other Everglades restoration uses until FY2011. Subsequent to completion of the Long-Term Plan, it was determined that all of the EAA Storage Reservoir Project's water storage goals could be achieved on Compartment A, and that Compartments B and C would not be needed to meet the storage objectives of the EAA Storage

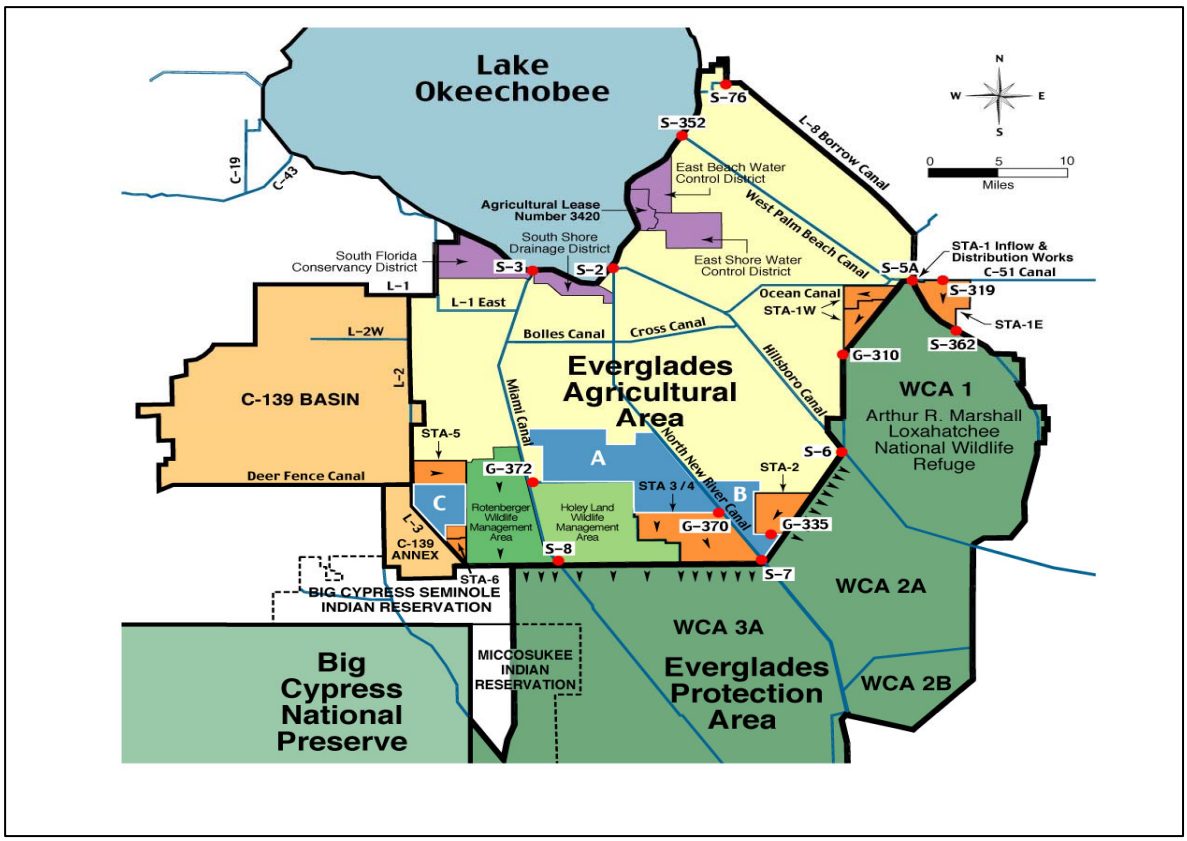

Figure 6-15. Everglades Agricultural Area map.

Reservoir Project (Phase 1 and 2). In light of the recent availability of land in Compartments B and C, construction of additional stormwater treatment areas is proposed in association with STA-2, STA-5, and STA-6 to assist the STAs in improving water quality entering the EPA. In December 2004, a major revision to Part 2 of the Long-Term Plan was approved by the FDEP. This revision included the addition of STAs on Compartments B and C in the EAA, as well as the development of the EAA Regional Feasibility Study. The design of the initial expansions of STA-2 and STA-5 were completed in 2005. Construction of these initial expansions is scheduled to occur in 2006.

The EAA Regional Feasibility Study is being performed to determine the optimal configuration of stormwater treatment areas on Compartments B and C with the objective of assisting the STAs in improving water quality in the EPA. The study is taking into account the anticipated flows and phosphorus loads to the existing STAs, the currently planned STA expansions and enhancements, the EAA Canal Improvements, the EAA Storage Reservoir Project, and other currently planned improvements in the EAA region. The study will include evaluation of alternatives for redistributing the inflow volumes and total phosphorus loads to the various STAs for optimal phosphorus removal performance both before and after development of the EAA Storage Reservoir Project. The study will also include determining the required improvements to the EAA canals for transfer of water to balance the flows and loads across the STAs. The evaluations will include but not be limited to cost estimates, schedules, and performance projections. The results of the EAA Regional Feasibility Study will be reported in the 2007 SFER. This study may result in additional land acquisition requirements within the EAA region; therefore, the Long-Term Plan is being added to the FFWP list of eligible projects.

The District continued implementation of the Long-Term Plan in FY2005, including the start of construction of the STA enhancements described in the revised Part 2 of the Long-Term Plan. The revised Part 2 of the Long-Term Plan document, dated November 2004, can be found at: http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/erd/longtermplan/documents.shtml.

Additional information on the Long-Term Plan and implementation activities for FY2005 can also be found in Chapter 8 of the 2006 SFER – Volume I.

Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoirs Phase 1 and Phase 2

During the development of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Conrol (C&SF) Project Comprehensive Review Study, Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, April 1999, also referred to as the Restudy, it was assumed that the EAA Storage Reservoirs (EAASR) Project would occupy a total of 60,000 acres of land in the EAA, divided into three equally sized compartments, with maximum water depths of 6 feet above grade in each compartment. Consecutive with the completion of the Restudy, the Talisman Land Agreement and the Woerner South property purchase were finalized and the actual resulting acreage was divided into three different sized areas referred to as Compartments A, B, and C (see **Figure 6-16**). In recognition of the difference in the assumed project footprint versus the actual land acquired, it was stated in the Restudy that the final size, depth, and configuration would be determined through more detailed planning and design.

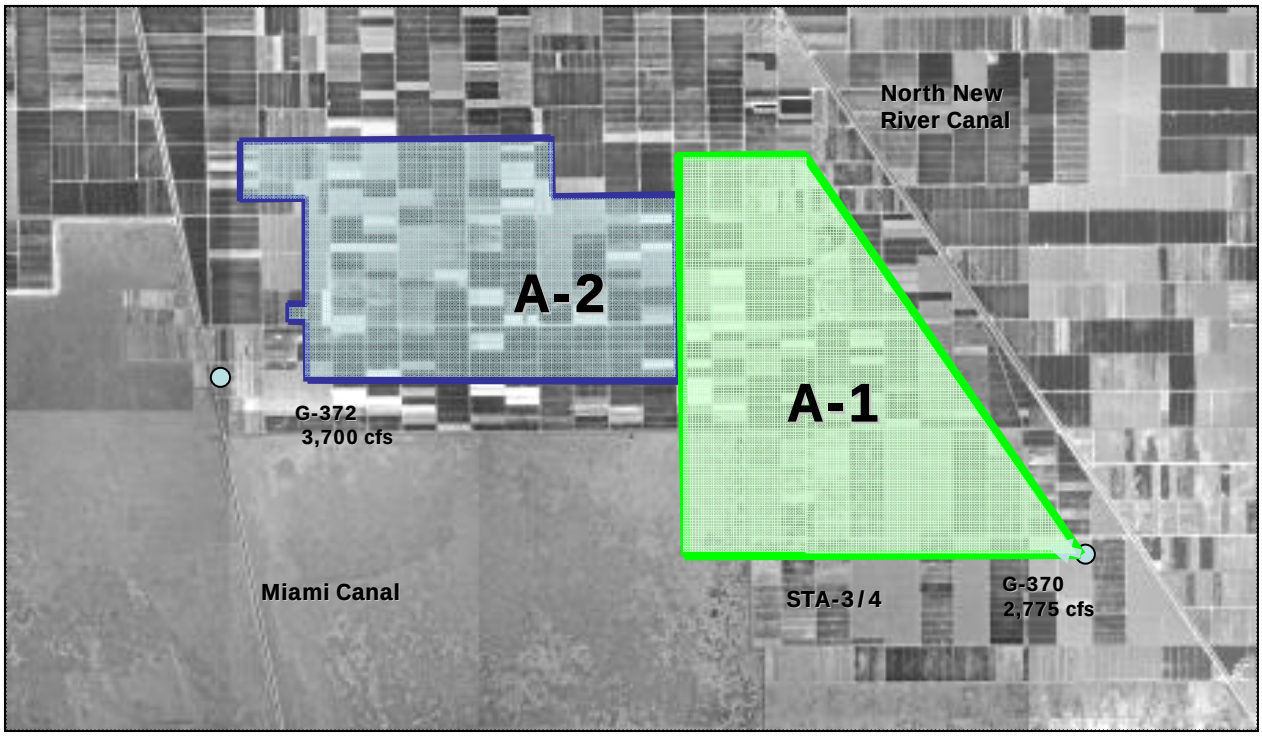

Table 6-16. Everglades Agricultural Area Region real estate acquisitions.

During the initial planning stages for the EAA Storage Reservoirs Project, it was determined that all of the EAA Storage Reservoir Project's water storage goals could be achieved on Compartment A, and that Compartments B and C would not be needed to meet the storage

objectives of the EAASR. As described in the previous subsection about the Long-Term Plan, Compartments B and C are currently being developed as additional stormwater treatment areas (STAs) to assist the existing Everglades Construction Project STAs in improving water quality entering the EPA.

For the purpose of developing the PIR for the EAA Storage Reservoirs Project, the two phases originally conceived in the Restudy, Phase 1 and Phase 2, were combined into one project on Compartment A. Construction of the A Compartment reservoirs is currently scheduled for completion as follows:

- A-1 Reservoir: 190,000 ac-ft of storage complete by 2010
- A-2 Reservoir: 170,000 acre-ft of storage complete by 2015

For more information on the EAA Storage Reservoir project, please refer to http://www.evergladesplan.org/ and http://evergladesnow.org.

UPDATE ON FFWP LAND ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES IN THE EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA REGION

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
EAA Part 1 and 2 (includes Compartment A)	48,994	30,896	18,098	63%
Compartment B	9,248	9,248	0	100%
Compartment C	8,884	8,884	0	100%
Total	**67,126**	**49,028**	**18,098**	**73%**

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA REGION

- CERP – Everglades Agricultural Storage Reservoir – Phases 1 and 2
- CERP – Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir – Phase 1 with Bolles and Cross Canals (Acceler8)
- Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Areas Expansion (Acceler8)
- Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-Term Plan for Achieving Water Quality Goals (Long-Term Plan), including the EAA Regional Feasibility Study

SECTION 6-8: EVERGLADES, FLORIDA BAY AND KEYS REGION

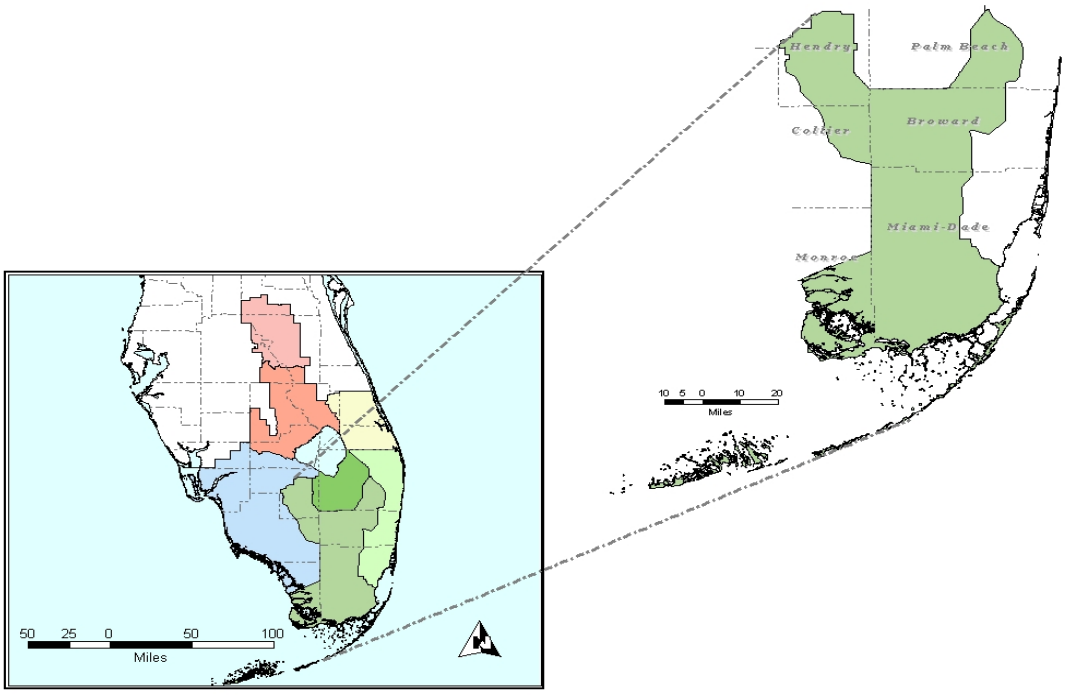

Figure 6-17. Everglades, Florida Bay and Keys Region.

SUMMARY

This section presents projects in the Everglades, Florida Bay and Keys Region that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act and presents a report on progress and changes to previously presented information since the 2005 SFER submission (insert 2005 Section link). An update on FFWP land acquisition activities that occurred in Everglades, Florida Bay and Keys Region during this reporting period is included in this section.

OVERVIEW OF THE EVERGLADES, FLORIDA BAY AND KEYS REGION

The WCAs are an integral component of the Everglades and freshwater supplies for South Florida (see **Figure 6-17**). Located south and east of the EAA, they comprise an area of about 1,350 square miles, including 1,337 square miles of the original Everglades, which averaged some 40 miles in width and extended 100 miles southward from Lake Okeechobee to the sea.

PROJECT UPDATE – EVERGLADES, FLORIDA BAY AND KEYS REGION

C-111 Spreader Canal

The purpose of this component is to reduce wet season flows in C-111, improve deliveries to Model Lands and Southern Glades and decrease potential flood risk in the lower south Miami-Dade area.

During the development of the C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study, Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, April 1999, also referred to as the Restudy, it was assumed that construction and operation of the C-111 Spreader Canal Project would require 12,415 acres of vacant land in Miami-Dade County.

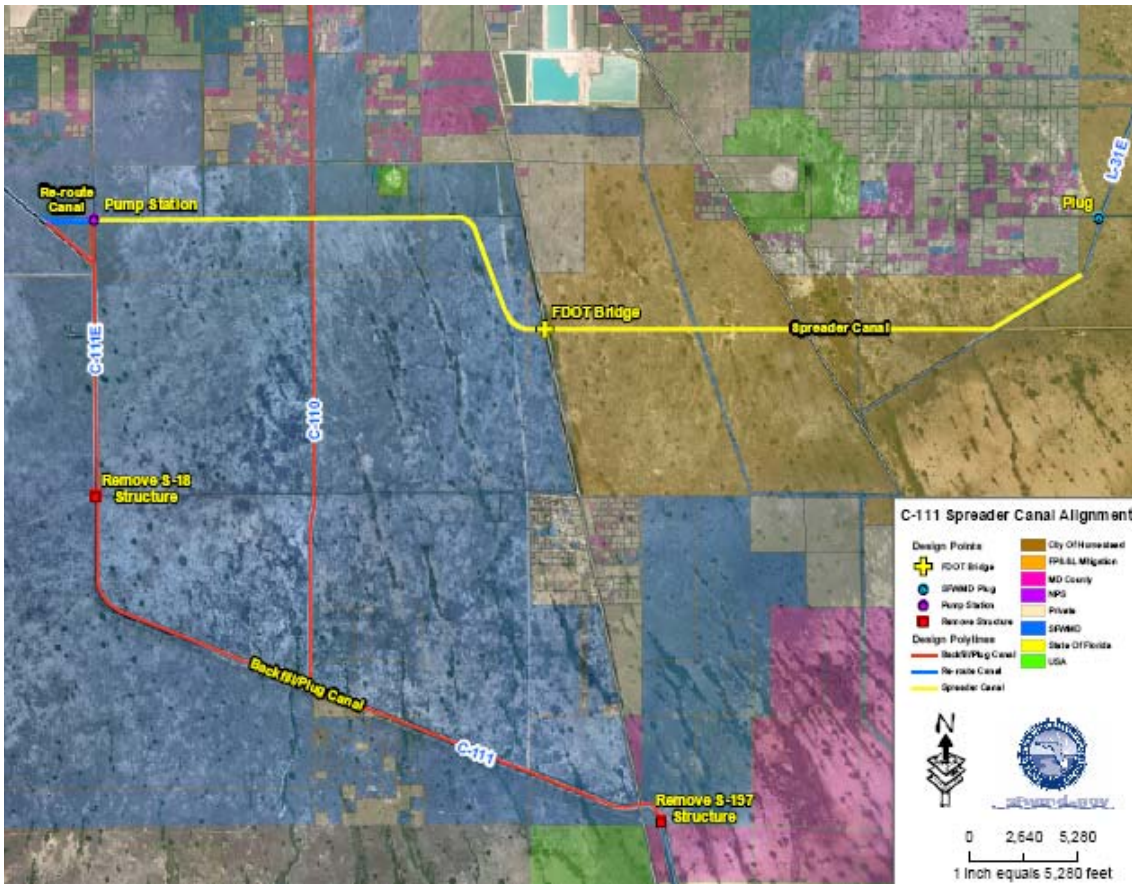

Figure 6-18. C-111 Spreader Canal Alternative G.

The total real estate cost of this component was estimated at more than $45.7 million. The total, which works out to $3,686 per acre, was reportedly to include land costs, damages, administrative costs, acquisition costs, and a contingency. The $45.7 million of land acquisition costs was subsequently authorized within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 (PL 106-541).

Since passage of WRDA 2000, real estate costs in Miami-Dade County have risen significantly. Individuals in the vicinity of the alignment identified in the Yellow Book have recently been marketing their property at a cost of $18,000/acre. Additionally, it appears as if the C-111 Spreader Canal Project may also need to acquire $25,000,000 worth of real estate, which was originally planned to be acquired by the C-111 Federal Project (1994 GRR). The total acres required for the project are estimated at 33,000 acres of land, with 24,064 currently in public ownership.

As a result of the concerns regarding escalated real estate costs, SFWMD set out to determine if any alignments exist which would minimize the real estate acquisition needs for the overall project, particularly those associated with the initial Acceler8 phase of construction.

After developing and reviewing four new alignments, it was recognized that the canal alignment associated with Alternative G (see **Figure 6-18**) could be constructed with the existing lands already acquired (under public ownership) or would be accessible through a wetland mitigation bank and would require the fewest number of additional acres of land acquisition in order to operate while achieving a majority of the ecosystem restoration benefits anticipated during the Restudy.

Alternative G follows the Yellow Book's east-west alignment (along theoretical SW 440th Street) from its confluence with the C-111E canal to a point 0.6 miles west of U.S. Highway 1. At this point, the canal transitions in a southward direction for one mile almost parallel to U.S. Highway 1. In order to minimize wetland impacts, it may be possible to slightly shift the transitional portion of the alignment so as to line up with the recently filled C-110 canal. After crossing west of U.S. Highway 1, Alternative G resumes its east-west alignment, crossing Card Sound Road and following the existing Sea Dade Canal until its point of confluence with the L-31E canal, at which point it is intended for the L-31E canal to become the Spreader Canal.

It is important to note that there are a total of seven C-111 Spreader Canal Project "build" alternatives, each with varying alignments and real estate needs, presently under consideration. Because the alignment associated with Alternative G is the southernmost of the aforementioned alignments, acquisition of the real estate necessary to operate Alternative G would likely be required for operation of all other alternatives under consideration. It is therefore presently SFWMD's position that acquisition of the lands necessary to operate Alternative G be given the highest project priority.

Everglades National Park Seepage Management Project

The Everglades National Park Seepage Management Project is comprised of three components that were recommended as a part of the C&SF Project Comprehensive Review Study Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), dated April 1999 (Restudy) and were formulated together to meet the objectives of the CERP.). The three components are:

- S-356 Structures – Component FF
- L-31N Improvements for Seepage Management – Component V
- Bird Drive Recharge Area – Component U (Previously identified as a stand-alone CERP project)

In general the goals of this project are:

- Improve the water deliveries to North East Shark River Slough
- Restore wetland hydropatterns in the Everglades National Park by reducing levee and groundwater seepage and increasing sheetflow
- Recharge groundwater and reduce seepage from the Everglades National Park buffer areas by increasing water table elevations east of Krome Avenue

A major constraint influencing real estate acquisition is the rapidly increasing real estate costs due to burgeoning residential growth adjacent to the project.

UPDATE ON FFWP LAND ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES IN THE EVERGLADES, FLORIDA BAY AND KEYS REGION

The table below quantifies the acreage needed versus obtained within the region under the current real estate acquisition plan as of September 30, 2005.

Table 6-10. Everglades, Florida Bay and Keys Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
WCA 3 Decompartmentalization & Sheetflow Enhancement Part 1 ETT	27	0	27	0%
WCA 3 Decompartmentalization & Sheetflow Enhancement Part 1 ETT, Part 1 North New River Improvements (S-34 to C-6	918	0	918	0%
WCA 3 Decompartmentalization & Sheetflow Enhancement Phase 2	28	0	28	0%
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	5	0	5	0%
S-356 Structure	3,947	0	3,947	0%
Bird Drive	3,996	1,400	2,596	35%
C-111 Spreader Canal	33,000	24,064	8,936	73%
Florida Keys Tidal Restoration	5	0	5	0%
Total	**41,926**	**25,464**	**16,462**	**61%**

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE EVERGLADES, FLORIDA BAY AND KEYS REGION

- CERP – WCA 3 Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement Project – Part 1
- CERP – C-111 Spreader Canal
- CERP – C-111 Spreader Canal (Acceler8)
- CERP – Florida Keys Tidal Restoration
- CERP – Flow to NW and Central WCA-3A
- CERP – Everglades National Park Seepage Management
- CERP – Bird Drive Recharge Area (as part of ENP Seepage Management)
- Florida Bay Restoration Initiative

SECTION 6-9: WATER PRESERVE AREAS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY REGIONS

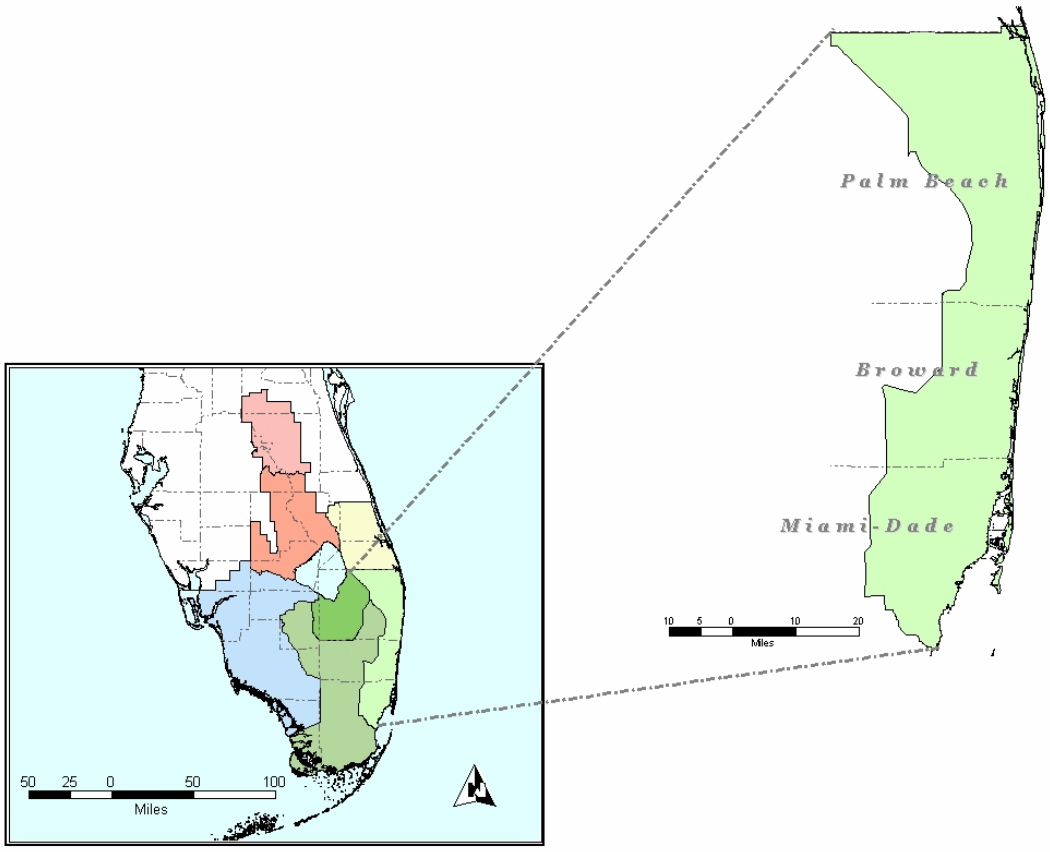

Figure 6-19. Water Preserve Areas, Miami-Dade County, and North Palm Beach County Regions.

SUMMARY

This section presents projects in the Water Preserve Areas, Miami-Dade County, and North Palm Beach County Regions that are eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act and presents a report on progress and changes to previously presented information since the 2005 SFER submission (insert 2005 Section link). An update on FFWP land acquisition activities that occurred in Everglades, Florida Bay and Keys Region during this reporting period is included in this section.

OVERVIEW – WATER PRESERVE AREAS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY REGIONS

These regions consist of the coastal ridge section in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade counties and a strip of sandy land that lies east of part of the WCAs (Figure 6-19). The area is made up of the Water Preserve Areas (WPAs), Miami-Dade County and North Palm Beach County regions. Important freshwater canals are, from north to south: C-44, C-18, C-17, C-51,

Hillsboro Canal, North New River Canal, South New River Canal (C-11), C-9, C-8, C-7, Miami Canal (C-6), C-4, C-100, C-100c, C-1, C-102, C-103, C-109, C-110, C-111, and the South Miami-Dade Conveyance System.

PROJECT UPDATE – WATER PRESERVE AREAS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY REGIONS

Broward Water Preserve Areas

The Broward Water Preserve Area (WPA) project's land is very close to completion. Almost 100 percent of the lands required for the C-11 and C-9 impoundments within the Broward WPA project have been obtained. A few remaining parcels need to be acquired for Water Conservation Area 3A/3B - Seepage Management Area (WCA-3A/3B SMA) . There is also an easement required to be obtained from FPL within the SMA component of the Broward WPA project for 1,100 acres.

Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands

The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) Project is located in southeastern Miami-Dade County. The study area currently extends along the coast from the C-100 canal basin at the Deering Estate to the C-111 canal basin at Manatee Bay. The project is multipurpose, providing for flood protection, recreation, and ecosystem restoration of freshwater wetlands, tidal wetlands, and nearshore habitat. BBCW consists of five major features that include the Deering Estates Flow-way, Cutler Wetlands Flow-way, L-31E Flow-way, North Canal Flow-way, and Barnes Sound Wetlands.

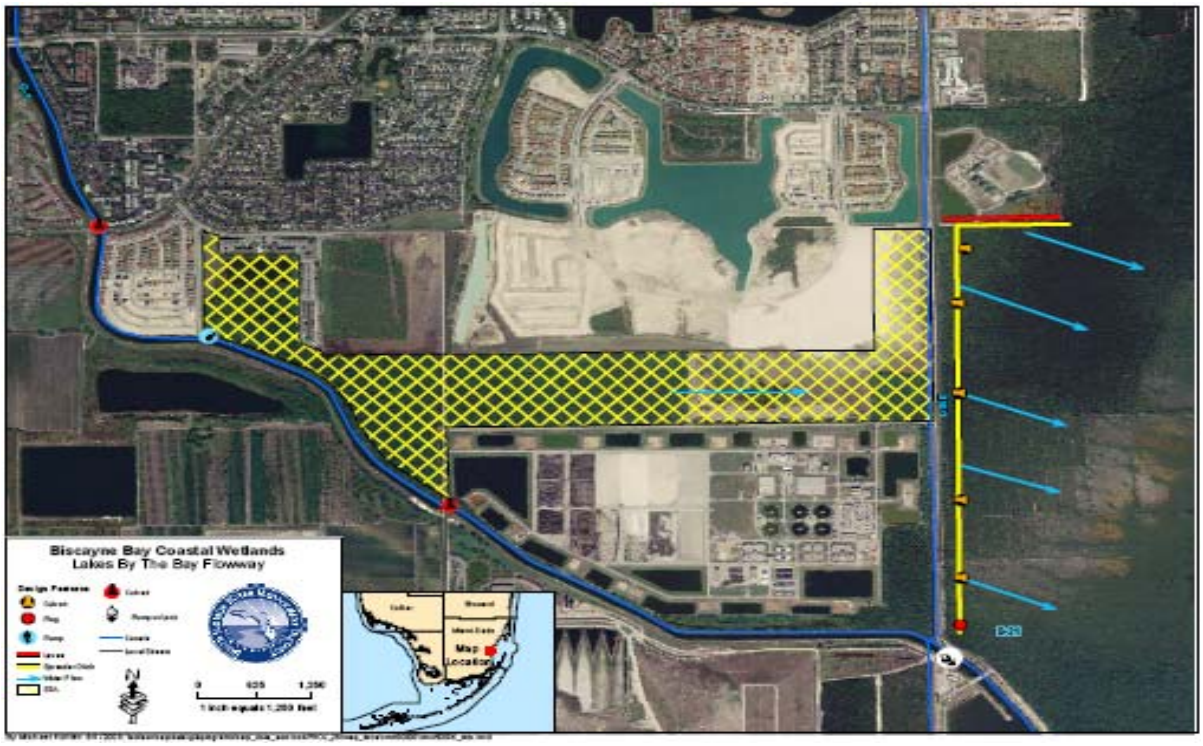

Figure 6-20. Cutler Wetlands Flowway Restoration concept.

Acceler8 has identified the real estate requirements for implementation of the Deering Estates and Cutler Wetlands Flow-ways (see **Figure 6-20**) and is currently working on the basis of design report for these two project features. The remaining project features are currently in the planning phase, and development of the Project Implementation Report is under way.

Hydrologic and hydrodynamic models that have been developed are being used to simulate alternative designs in support of a tentatively selected plan that will (1) moderate point source canal discharges and improve freshwater and estuarine habitat; (2) improve salinity distribution and reestablish productive nursery habitat along the shoreline; (3) restore the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of fresh water to the bay and Biscayne National Park; and (4) preserve and restore the spatial extent of natural coastal glades habitat within the project's study area.

Miami-Dade County Lake Belt Area

This component assumes that the conditions caused by the currently permitted mining exist and that the effects of any future mining are fully mitigated by the mining industry.

C-111 Canal

Plan 6A, recommended in the USACE General Reevaluation Report (dated May 1994) will create the operational capability and flexibility necessary to provide restoration of the ecological integrity of Taylor Slough and the eastern panhandle areas of the Everglades, and maintain flood protection to the agricultural interests adjacent to C-111.

In the future without plan condition, C-111 Plan 6A will protect the natural value of a portion of the ENP, and will maintain flood damage prevention within the C-111 basin east of L-31N and C-111. The project (see **Figure 6-21**), which consists of both structural and nonstructural modifications to the existing project works within the C-111 basin, will restore the hydrology in hydroperiod and depths in 1,027 square miles of Shark River Slough are beneficially impacted by the higher stages in the Rocky Glades, resulting in a net increase in water volume within Shark River Slough. The project will provide adequate operational flexibility to incorporate management strategies that will evolve as a result of continued monitoring and studies.

A recent review by the USACE Washington Headquarters has modified certain features of this project and removed the S-332E pump station and spreader canal as authorized components of this project together with the associated real estate requirements. A revised General Reevaluation Report (GRR) addressing these changes is expected to be released in October 2005. The identified pump station, spreader canal, and real estate will continue to be an integral part of the CERP C-111 Spreader Canal Project.

A revised GRR will be released in October 2005 removing the S-332E pump station, spreader canal, and associated real estate from this project (see http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/dp/draftgrr.htm for more details and the latest updates).

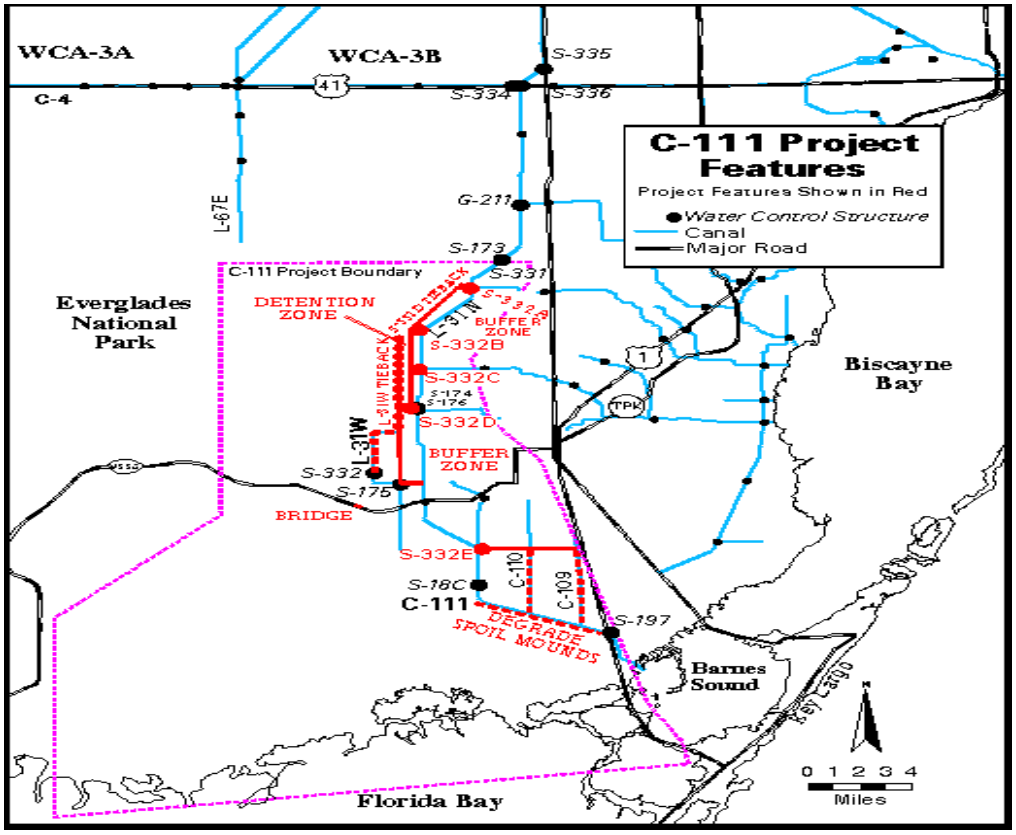

Figure 6-21. Federal C-111 Project features.

Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park

The Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park Project was authorized by the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act (Public Law 10229). The purpose of the project is to provide for structural modifications to the C&SF Project to enable the restoration of more natural water flows to Shark River Slough in ENP. The project is being implemented by the USACE in conjunction with the acquisition of about 107,600 acres of land by the USDOI.

New water control structures are planned in the L-67 A and C levees that now physically separate WCA-3A and WCA-3B. Outlets from WCA-3B (S-355A and B) have already been constructed to discharge into the existing L-29 canal that currently conveys water under Eastern Tamiami Trail Highway (U.S. Highway 41) through a series of culverts into Northeast Shark River Slough. To further promote the sheetflow of water into the park, two bridges, one roughly two miles in length, and a second bridge one mile in length, located roughly 0.3 miles east of Krome Avenue, will replace portions of the eastern Tamiami Trail highway and culverts to improve water flow from the L-29 canal into Northeast Shark River Slough. The lower four miles of an existing levee and canal (L-67 extension) dividing the newly acquired ENP Expansion Lands (Northeast Shark Slough) from the western half of ENP have been removed and the remainder will be eliminated by 2006. Additional flood protection has been provided to the Miccosukee Indian Tribe Tigertail Camp on eastern Tamiami Trail to avoid periodic flooding that would otherwise be caused by the project. Similar protective measures are planned for the Seminole Indian Tribe Osceola Camp, also on eastern Tamiami Trail.

To prevent adverse flood impacts to the 8.5-square-mile area, the authorized project includes the construction of a seepage levee and canal through the western third of the area and a pump station (S-357) to remove excess seepage water. The USDOI is expected to complete land acquisition for the protective levee and buffer area west of this levee by the end of 2005. Construction of the levee and pump station began in 2005. A second pump station (S-356) has been constructed to pump excess seepage water from the L-31N borrow canal into the L-29 borrow canal. This water will then flow through culverts under U.S. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) into Northeast Shark River Slough. The structural modifications were designed to provide for maximum operational flexibility, so that, as more is learned through the continued iterative testing program, the operation of the project can be adjusted accordingly.

UPDATE ON FFWP LAND ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES IN THE WATER PRESERVE AREAS, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY REGIONS

The tables below quantify the acreage needed versus obtained within the regions under the real estate acquisition plan as of September 30, 2005.

Table 6-11. North Palm Beach County Watershed Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
Pal-Mar & J.W. Corbett	3,000	2,886	114	96%
L-8 Basin	380	0	380	0%
C-51 & L-8 Reservoir	1,800	1,220	580	68%
C-17 Backpumping Treatment	550	0	550	0%
C-51 Backpumping Treatment	710	0	710	0%
C-51 Regional Groundwater Aquifer Storage & Recovery	34	0	34	0%
Total	**6,474**	**4,106**	**2368**	**63%**

1

2 **Table 6-12.** Miami-Dade County Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
North Lake Belt Storage Phase 2	5,861	519	5,342	9%
Central Lake Belt Storage Phase 2	5,770	143	5,627	2%
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	13,950	5,518	8,432	40%
West Miami-Dade Wastewater Reuse Pilot	1,000	0	1,000	0%
South Miami-Dade Wastewater Reuse Pilot	1,000	0	1,000	0%
C-4 Structure	2	0	2	0%
Total	**27,583**	**6,180**	**21,403**	**22%**

Table 6-13. Water Preserve Area Region real estate acquisitions.

Component	Acres Required	Acres Acquired	Remaining Acres	Percent Acquired
Palm Beach County Agriculture Reserve Reservoir Part 1	1,660	994	666	60%
Broward County Secondary Canal System	245	0	245	0%
Acme Basin B Discharge	415	375	40	90%
Strazzulla Wetlands	3,384	2,796	588	83%
Site 1 Impoundment	1,658	1,658	0	100%
WCA-3A/3B Seepage Management	4,323	2,994	1,329	69%
C-9 Impoundment	1,804	1,804	0	100%
C-11 Impoundment	1,790	1751	39	97%
WCA – 2B Flows to CLBSA	664	0	664	0%
L-30 Canal Upgrade	500	0	500	0%
Water Preserve Area Conveyance	990	0	990	0%
Total	**17,433**	**12,372**	**5,061**	**71%**

ELIGIBLE FFWP PROJECTS FOR THE NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY, MIAMI-DADE, AND WPA REGIONS

- CERP – North Palm Beach County – Part 1
- CERP – Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures
- CERP – Acme Basin B Discharge
- CERP – Strazzulla Wetlands
- CERP – Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir – Part 1
- CERP – Site 1 Impoundment
- CERP – Broward County WPA
- CERP – WPA Conveyance

- CERP – WCA 2B Flows to Everglades National Park
- CERP – WCA 3A/B Flows to Central Lake Belt Storage Area
- CERP – Broward County Secondary Canal System
- CERP – Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Technology Pilot
- CERP – Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot
- Hillsboro ASR Pilot
- CERP – Hillsboro Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot
- CERP – Central Lake Belt Storage
- CERP – North Lake Belt Storage
- L-31N Seepage Management Pilot
- CERP – Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- CERP – Biscay Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1 (Acceler8)
- Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan
- Biscayne Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan
- Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative
- Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

SECTION 6-10: SAVE OUR RIVERS PROJECTS

HISTORY

In 1981, the Florida legislature created the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program for the water management districts to acquire environmentally sensitive land. The legislation produced Section 373.59, F.S., known as the Water Management Lands Trust Fund. The trust fund receives revenues from the documentary stamp tax, which the FDEP administers. The statute enables the water management districts to use the trust fund to acquire fee title or other interest in lands needed to manage, protect, and conserve the state's water resources. The act specifies an allocation formula for each district and the process by which to use the fund. P-2000, enacted by the legislature in 1990, also added land acquisition funds to the SOR program and created the Florida Preservation Trust Fund. The District currently accomplishes the acquisition of SOR project lands primarily using mitigation and Florida Forever funds.

FLORIDA FOREVER

Acquisitions of lands for SOR projects will be accomplished in concert with other District initiatives under the Florida Forever Work Plan. Although the majority of Florida Forever expenditures will be used to purchase lands for water resource projects, such as reservoirs and Stormwater Treatment Areas, the purchase and management of several SOR projects may be funded through Florida Forever if necessary.

In FY2005, the majority of Florida Forever funds were used to acquire land for the Kissimmee River Restoration project. A total of 5,092 acres were acquired along the river and chain of lakes, funded through Florida Forever program and its predecessor, Preservation 2000. **Table 6-14** summarizes the estimated five-year (FY2006–FY2010) District real estate expenditures for eligible SOR projects. The entire total estimate of $71,775,000 is projected to be expended in FY2006.

Since the inception of the Florida Forever program no funds have been expended for the management of lands, including recreation.

Table 6-14. Estimated five-year SFWMD real estate expenditures for SOR projects.

Project	Cost (FY2006-FY2010)[1]
CREW	$12,000,000
Kissimmee River Restoration	$52,775,000
C-111/L-31N	$7,000,000
Pal Mar[2]	$0
TOTAL	**$71,775,000**

[1] All funds are projected to be expended in 2006.

[2] Projects reflecting a zero dollar amount ($0) had budgeted expenditures in the prior reporting cycle.

SECTION 6-11: COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN PROJECTS

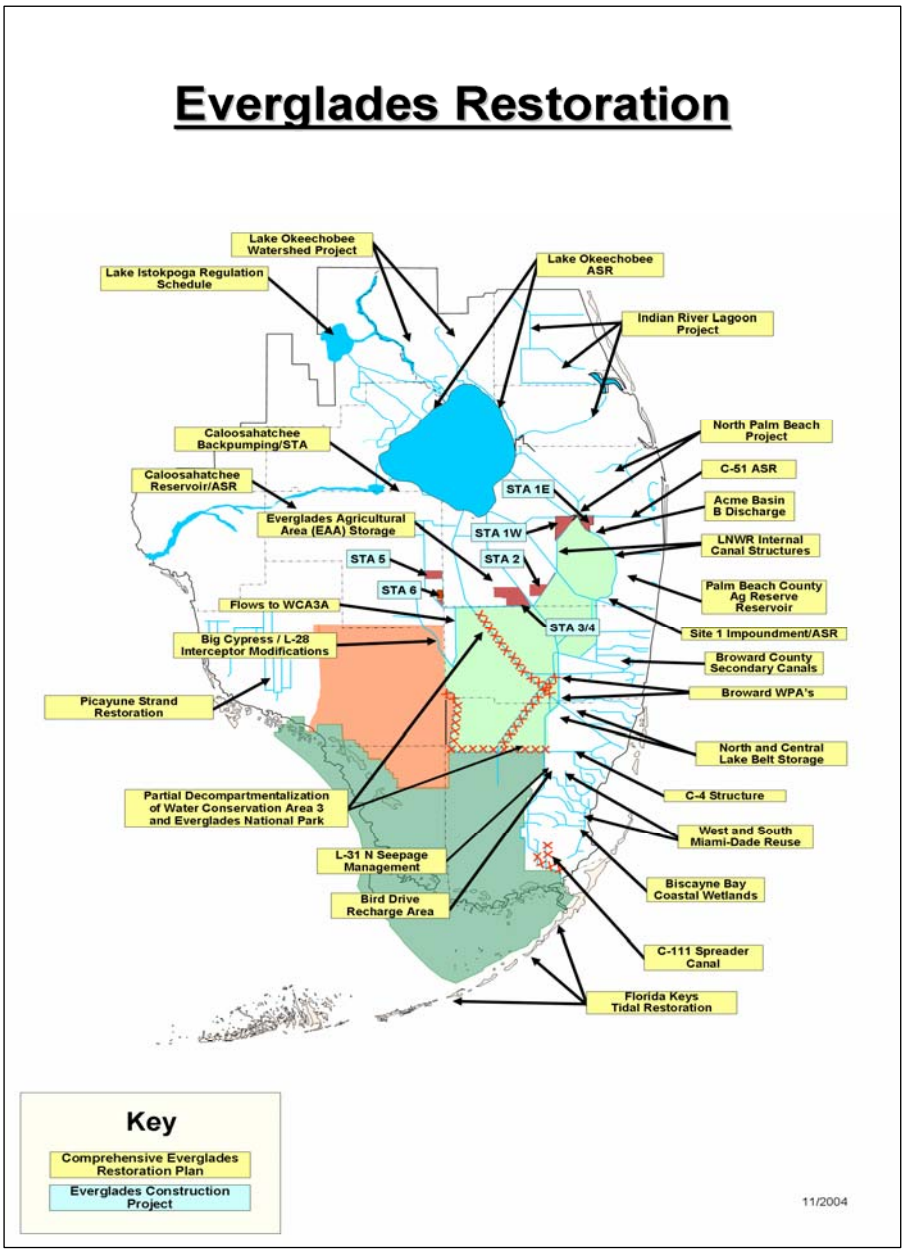

Figure 6-22. Map of Everglades Restoration projects, including CERP and Everglades Construction Project Stormwater Treatment Areas.

BACKGROUND

The C&SF Project was authorized by Congress in 1948 and modified by subsequent acts to provide flood control, water supply, prevention of saltwater intrusion, and protection of fish and wildlife resources.

The design of the project was based on forecasts that significantly underestimated the intensity of land uses and future population growth in Central and South Florida. The demands on the system's flood protection and water supply capabilities are now much greater than initially anticipated. In addition, South Florida's natural systems have been degraded by the intensity of land use and water management practices.

Congress approved the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. CERP sets forth a bold outline for returning water to its historic quantity, quality, timing, and distribution. This will be achieved by implementing over the next three decades a series of more than 50 carefully sequenced projects. Together these projects will benefit the ecological functioning of more than 2.4 million acres of the South Florida ecosystem, while improving regional water quality, deliveries to coastal estuaries and urban and agricultural water supply, even as existing levels of flood protection are maintained. The District has moved forward aggressively in acquiring lands in advance of project needs to ensure availability of lands for CERP projects. Over 51 percent of lands identified in the restoration plan have been acquired; this includes 60 percent of lands for projects which are scheduled to be completed from 2005 through 2010.

OUTLOOK

By building on the processes developed and activities initiated during the first five years of CERP implementation, major strides will occur in completion of Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) and construction during the upcoming five years. Work in progress or planned will, by 2010, bring to completion these projects that will produce significant improvements in the natural environment in immediate project areas of the following projects:

- Caloosahatchee River ASR Pilot Project
- Hillsboro ASR Pilot Project
- Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants (PIR)
- L-31N Seepage Management Pilot
- Lake Okeechobee ASR Pilot
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1
- Picayune Strand Hydrologic Restoration
- Indian River Lagoon – South, C-44 Reservoir
- Indian River Lagoon – South, Natural Areas Real Estate Acquisition – Phase 1
- Acme Basin B Discharge
- Broward County WPA, C-9 Impoundment
- Broward County WPA, C-11 Impoundment
- Broward County WPA, WCA-3A/3B Seepage Management
- Site 1 Impoundment
- C-111 Spreader Canal
- North Palm Beach County – Part 1, C-51 and L-8 Reservoir, Phase 1

- EAA Storage Reservoir – Part 1, Phase 1
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed – Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule
- Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan
- C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir

The Acceler8 initiative, which was launched in FY2005, will advance the funding, design, and construction of eight projects so that the Everglades will experience positive benefits years sooner and more cost-effectively. Through Acceler8, more than $1.5 billion is committed in additional state funds — beyond the $200 million per year already planned for CERP — to complete by 2010 the construction of the Acceler8 projects.

Full implementation of major water storage projects such as the C-44 component of Indian River Lagoon – South, C-43 West Storage, and Everglades Agricultural Area reservoirs will provide 50 percent of total surface water storage. This is the first step in capturing the water currently released to tide that can be utilized by the natural and human environments.

While working in concert with water quality- and quantity-related projects, full implementation of projects, such as Picayune Strand Hydrologic Restoration, will be major steps to Everglades restoration. The Picayune Strand Project alone will result in the restoration of more than 55,000 acres of wetland habitat, supporting more than 15 threatened and endangered species.

Major CERP work efforts are focused on acquiring lands and initiating the projects for which construction will be completed by 2010, the critical restoration projects, and adopting regulations and policies ensuring restoration success. An agreement, executed by the president and the governor, is in place to ensure that water newly made available by restoration projects will be reserved for environmental restoration.

Achieving the full array of CERP benefits will depend on the USACE's completion of CERP precursor projects, notably the Modified Water Deliveries to the ENP. Multidisciplinary, multiagency teams are actively coordinating PIRs. PIRs present alternative designs evaluated in developing project plans to be recommended to Congress for construction authorization. Recently completed PIRs include Picayune Strand and Indian River Lagoon – South.

A Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) details the progressive order that projects will be put in place for the natural and human environments in order to fully realize the benefits of CERP. The success of this monumental initiative is being continuously evaluated through Restoration Coordination and Verification (RECOVER).

There are $7.6 million in FY2006 discretionary funds for this program. These are for land acquisition of the Southern CREW/Imperial River Flow-way Critical Restoration Project. There are $437.3 million in FY2006 restricted funds for this program. The increase in restricted funds is due primarily to the issuance of Certificates of Participation (COPs) revenue bonding to facilitate construction of Acceler8 projects; other increases are related to additional land acquisitions for the C-44 reservoir.

FISCAL YEAR 2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During FY2005, the District and the state of Florida launched Acceler8, an expedited initiative to revitalize the ecosystem by stepping up the pace on eight restoration projects. By accelerating the funding, design, and construction of these projects, the Everglades will experience positive benefits much sooner and in a more cost-effective manner.

Funds needed for construction of Acceler8 will be significantly leveraged through the District's financing with Certificates of Participation revenue bonding. Most of the land for these

projects has already been acquired, with much of it purchased in partnership with the federal government. The Acceler8 projects are the following:

- C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Reservoir
- Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir – Phase 1 with Bolles and Cross Canals Improvements
- Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Areas Expansion
- Water Preserve Areas (includes Site 1, C-9 and C-11 Impoundments, Acme Basin B, and Water Conservation Area 3A/3B Seepage Management)
- Picayune Strand Restoration
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1
- C-111 Spreader Canal

Acceler8 projects will provide added flood control and water supply options, along with the potential for recreational opportunities.

Construction of the Western C-11 Water Quality Improvement Critical Restoration Project was completed during FY2005, and the S-381 structure on the C-11 canal was turned over from the USACE to the District in March. Implementation continued on the remaining critical restoration projects: Ten Mile Creek Water Preserve Area, Western Tamiami Trail Culverts, Southern Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) and Imperial River Flowway, Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal and Lake Trafford Restoration.

The District continued with design and permitting activities for the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilots, which will investigate technology previously untried on the scale envisioned in CERP. Although congressional authorization and appropriation delayed the Lake Okeechobee and Caloosahatchee pilot projects, in July the District awarded a contract for construction of the Hillsboro pilot.

Construction on the G-161 structure and widening of the M canal, components of the North Palm Beach County – Part 1 Project, began during the fourth quarter of FY2006.

The Indian River Lagoon – South Plan, which will create habitat improvement in the St. Lucie Estuary and the Indian River Lagoon, is awaiting authorization under a Water Resources Development Act, as is the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. Development of Southwest Florida and Florida Bay/Keys Feasibility Studies continued. These studies will investigate conceptual designs and make regional recommendations for meeting the future needs of agricultural, urban, and environmental users; this includes determining the modifications needed to successfully restore and protect the water quality and ecological conditions of Florida Bay and the Florida Keys' reef tract.

Innovative partnerships and creative approaches have accomplished several major acquisitions to increase the land available to implement CERP. As of September 30, 2005 a total of 209,610 acres at a cost of $1.1 billion have been acquired for CERP projects. The federal government contribution toward the purchase of these lands totaled $204 million, along with local government contributions of $33 million.

A total of 4,765 acres was acquired in FY2005, at a total cost of $91.2 million; key acquisitions included the following:

- 67 acres for the Broward County WPA Project
- 315 acres for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project, that includes 240 acres donated as part of Florida Power and Light's mitigation for expansion of the Turkey Point power plant

- 1,664 acres for the Indian River Lagoon – South C-23/24 Reservoir and STA, along with 1,241 acres of natural area acquired for the Cypress Creek Complex and North Fork Flood Plain Restoration projects
- 160 acres for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project
- 1,421 acres of natural area acquired for the Pal Mar and J. W. Corbett WMA Hydropattern Restoration
- 57 acres acquired for the Bird Drive Recharge Area Component of the ENP Seepage Management project.

FY2006 OBJECTIVES

The District's strategic priority for the CERP program is to expedite construction and operation of Everglades restoration projects through Acceler8.

Acceler8

Acceler8 projects will be implemented in a dual-track mode: the USACE and the District will continue planning for these and all CERP projects while the District, using COPs, proceeds with detailed design and construction of the Acceler8 projects.

The Acme Basin B Construction Notice to Proceed is on schedule, to be issued during the second quarter of FY2006. This project will provide water to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge that would otherwise be lost to tide. The Acme Basin B Acceler8 project will increase the spatial extent of wetlands and habitat by converting 365 acres of agricultural land to a natural area, which will be planted with wetland and upland vegetation. This Acceler8 project will provide a buffer between natural and developed areas as well as recreational opportunities.

The Construction Notice to Proceed for the Acceler8 Phase 1A Reservoir, part of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoirs Project, is scheduled to be issued in the fourth quarter. Inclusion of this project in the Acceler8 undertaking will result in construction completing in 2009, three years ahead of schedule. The Phase 1A project is an aboveground reservoir for water storage with a capacity of 190,000 ac-ft at a maximum depth of 12 feet. The reservoir will be constructed on a 16,700-acre parcel of land situated north of Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4.

The Broward County Water Preserve Area Project includes the construction of aboveground impoundments and a wetland buffer strip. The Notices to Proceed for Acceler8 construction of the Water Conservation Area 3A/3B Seepage Management and C-9 and C-11 impoundment components are scheduled to be issued in the fourth quarter.

Ten Mile Creek Critical Restoration Project construction will be completed in the first quarter, and the Interim Operations and Testing Phase will begin in the second quarter. This project will moderate high water volume freshwater flows and salinity fluctuations in the St. Lucie Estuary, and reduce sediment and nutrient loads to benefit estuarine habitat.

Earthwork for the Lake Trafford Restoration Critical Restoration Project, which will improve water quality, will be completed during the first quarter; and by the second quarter 50 percent of organic sediment will be dredged from the lake bottom.

Construction on the former New Palm/Newcomer Dairy site of the 780-acre Nubbin Slough Stormwater Treatment Area, a component of the Lake Okeechobee Water Retention/Phosphorus Removal Critical Restoration Project, will be completed during the third quarter of FY2006.

Western Tamiami Trail Culverts Critical Restoration Project construction will be completed during the third quarter. The Tamiami Trail Phase 1 work has been incorporated into the Picayune

Strand Project Implementation Report, which, once authorized by Congress, will make this work fully eligible for cost sharing.

Construction of the North Palm Beach County – Part 1, L-8 Pump Station will start and construction of the G-161 Structure will be completed in the fourth quarter. Overall, this project will increase water supplies to the Grassy Waters Preserve and Loxahatchee Slough, enhance hydropatterns in the slough, increase base flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River, and reduce high discharges to the Lake Worth Lagoon.

The CERP Annual Report (Chapter 7A of the 2006 SFER – Volume I) contains additional information about the status of these projects. *Section 6-13* of this chapter details the eligible FFWP projects within the CERP program.

FUNDING AND MANPOWER RESOURCES

Table 6-15 summarizes estimated District real estate expenditures for FY2006–FY2010, based on a real estate acquisition strategy developed to support the CERP implementation schedule. Only real estate costs are presented in this table, since Florida Forever funds are used primarily to acquire real estate. The estimated total real estate expenditures for CERP projects in the upcoming five-year period are shown below.

Table 6-15. Estimated five-year SFWMD real estate expenditures for CERP.

Project	Cost (FY2006-FY2010)[1]
Acme Basin B	$0
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands	$62,000,000
Broward County WPA	$15,770,000
C-111 Spreader Canal	$35,000,000
C-43 Reservoir	$0
Central Lake Belt Storage	$0
Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir, Part 2	$0
Everglades National Park Seepage Management (includes Bird Drive Recharge Area)	$193,350,000
Indian River Lagoon - South	$ 2,000,000,000
Lake Okeechobee Watershed	$500,000,000
North Lake Belt Storage	$0
North Palm Beach County Project, Part 1	$140,143,287
Palm Beach County Agriculture Reserve Reservoir, Part 1	$0
Site 1 Impoundment	$0
Strazzulla Wetlands	$0
WCA 3 Decompartmentalization, Part 1	$0
WPA Conveyance	$0
Band 2 Projects (excluding BBCW and LOW)	$ 140,473,998
Band 3 Projects	$408,837,252
TOTAL	**$3,495,574,537**

[1] Projects reflecting a zero dollar amount ($0) had budgeted expenditures in the prior reporting cycle.

The land cost projections currently exceed the revenues expected under CERP funding legislation adopted by the legislature. Therefore, the District will seek the adoption of additional funding legislation to increase current funding made available under the Florida Forever program, and establish successor programs. Additionally, further opportunities will be sought to level the funds made available through Florida Forever through partnerships with local and federal governments.

GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

CERP projects satisfy Florida Forever goals and performance measures as outlined in *Section 6-12* of this chapter.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The Comprehensive Plan is conceptual in nature; consequently, any schedule that is developed from that plan will also be conceptual. When the Comprehensive Plan was sent to Congress in 1999, it contained an implementation schedule that was, at the time, the best professional judgment of the Implementation Plan Team as to how the plan could be implemented. In 2000, the Implementation Plan Team began to revise the schedule, to take into account new information regarding the projects, the available funding, and the nature of the SFWMD-USACE working relationship.

The Implementation Plan Team released a revised implementation schedule in March 2005 known as UPDATE 1.0 **(**see **Table 6-16**). Based on direction from the CERP Programmatic Regulations, the Implementation Plan Team revisited the schedule once again and considered changes in funding levels, performance targets, and planned project locations. This year, the team produced the MISP, which lays out a series of five-year periods or bands for CERP implementation. The MISP lists which band within which each project is expected to be completed. The plan will be continually monitored to ensure that the proposed dates are both realistic and are being achieved. Additional information regarding the MISP is available at http://www.evergladesplan.org/pm/misp.cfm.

Table 6-16. CERP Master Implementation Sequencing Plan, Version 1.0

Component/ Project Name	Construction Completion Dates			
	Comp Plan (April 1999)	MISP Phase 1	MISP Streamlined (current)	
Caloosahatchee (C-43) River ASR Pilot	Oct-02	Sep-06	2006	Band 1 (2005-2010)
Hillsboro ASR Pilot Project	Oct-02	Dec-06	2006	
Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants (PIR)	Sep-11	Nov-13	2007	
Winsberg Farm Wetlands Restoration	Dec-05	Jul-14	2008	
L-31N (30) Seepage Management Pilot	Oct-02	Jul-08	2008	
Lake Okeechobee ASR Pilot	Dec-01	Sep-08	2007	
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (Phase 1)	May-18	May-11	2008	
Picayune Strand (Southern Golden Gate Estates) Hydrologic Restoration	Jun-05	2009	2009	
Indian River Lagoon - South				
- C-44 Reservoir*	Jun-07	Oct-09	2009	
- Natural Areas Real Estate Acquisition (Phase 1)		Band 5	2009	
Broward County WPA				
- C-9 Impoundment*	Sep-07	Jul-11	2009	
- C-11 Impoundment*	Sep-08	Jul-11	2009	
- WCA 3A-3B Levee Seepage Management*	Sep-08	Jul-10	2008	
Acme Basin B Discharge	Sep-06	Jul-09	2007	
Site 1 Impoundment*	Sep-07	Dec-09	2009	
C-111 Spreader Canal	Jul-08	Dec-10	2008	
North Palm Beach County - Part 1				
- C-51 and L-8 Basin Reservoir, Phase 1 (PBA)	2011	2008	2008	
EAA Storage Reservoir				
- Part 1, Phase 1*	Sep-09	Dec-09	2009	
Lake Okeechobee Watershed				
- Lake Istopoga Regulation Schedule	Dec-01	2008	2008	
Modify Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan		Jul-09	2009	
Lakes Park Restoration	Jun-04	Dec-14	2009	
C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir	Mar-12	Band 2	2010	

Note: Shaded areas denote Acceler8 projects and project components.

Component/ Project Name	Comp Plan (April 1999)	MISP Phase 1	MISP Streamlined (current)	
Indian River Lagoon - South				
- C25 Reservoir and Northfork/Southfork Basin	May-10	Band 7	Band 2	
- C-23/24 STA		May-16	Band 2	
- C-23/24 North	May-09	Mar-17	Band 2	
- C-23/24 South		Mar-17	Band 2	
- Natural Areas Real Estate Acquisition (Phase 2)		Band 5	Band 2	
Strazzulla Wetlands	Oct-07	Apr-10	Band 2	
ASR Regional Study		Band 2	Band 2	
EAA Storage Reservoir				
- Part 1, Phase 2*			Band 2	
North Palm Beach County - Part 1				
- Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration	Mar-11	Band 2	Band 2	
- Pal-Mar/Corbett Hydropattern Restoration		Band 2	Band 2	
- C-17 Backpumping	Oct-08	Band 3	Band 2	
- C-51 Backpumping and Treatment	Oct-08	Band 3	Band 2	
- L-8 Basin Modifications	Sep-11	Band 2	Band 2	
Florida Keys Tidal Restoration	Aug-05	Band 3	Band 2	
Lake Okeechobee Watershed				
- Tributary Sediment Dredging	Sep-05	Band 2	Band 2	
- Water Quality Treatment Facilities	Sep-10	Band 2	Band 2	
- North of Lake Okeechobee Storage	Sep-15	Band 2	Band 2	
- Taylor Creek/ Nubbin Slough*	Jan-09	Sep-11	Band 2	
Henderson Creek/ Belle Meade Restoration	Dec-05	Band 3	Band 2	
Modify Holey Land Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan		Band 2	Band 2	
C-4 Eastern Structure	Jul-05	Band 2	Band 2	
Everglades National Park Seepage Management (Phase 1)	Oct-10	Band 2	Band 2	
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (Phase 2)	May-18	Band 2	Band 2	
WCA 3 Decompartimentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement				
- Physical Models	N/A	N/A	Band 2	
- North New River Improvements*	Jan-09	Band 3	Band 2	
WPA Conveyance				
- Dade-Broward Levee and Canal		Band 2	Band 2	
Broward Secondary Canal System	Jun-09	Band 3	Band 2	

Band 2 (2010-2015)

Component/ Project Name	Comp Plan (April 1999)	MISP Phase 1	MISP Streamlined (current)	
Flows to Northwest and Central WCA 3A				
- G-404 Pump Station Modifications	Mar-09	Band 3	Band 3	
- Flows to NW and Central WCA 3A	Apr-09	Band 3	Band 3	
Miccosukkee Water Management Plan	Band 1	Band 3	Band 3	
Indian River Lagoon - South				
- Natural Areas Real Estate Acquisition (Phase 3)		Band 5	Band 3	
EAA Storage Reservoir				
- Part 2	Dec-15	Band 3	Band 3	
WPA Conveyance				
- North Lake Belt Storage Area (Turnpike Deliveries)	Sep-08	Band 3	Band 3	
Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir - Part 1	Aug-13	Band 3	Band 3	
Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve ASR - Part 2		Band 4	Band 3	
Wastewater Reuse Pilot				
- South Miami Dade Reuse Pilot	Sep-05	Band 3	Band 3	
WCA 3 Decompartilization and Sheetflow Enhancement				
- Miami Canal		Band 3	Band 3	
- Canal and Levee Modifications in WCA 3		Band 3	Band 3	
- WCA 3A & 3B Flows to CLB	Feb-16	Band 3	Band 3	
- Eastern / Western TT			Band 3	
Everglades National Park Seepage Management (Phase 2)	Dec-13	Band 3	Band 3	
Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Technology Pilot Project	Dec-05	Band 3	Band 3	
Flows to Eastern WCA	Feb-17	Band 3	Band 3	
Seminole Tribe Water Conservation Plan	Jun-08	Band 3	Band 3	
North Palm Beach County - Part 1				
- C-51 and L-8 Basin Reservoir, Phase 2	Sep-11	Band 3	Band 3	
North Palm Beach County - Part 2				
- L-8 Basin ASR		Band 3	Band 3	
- C-51 Regional ASR	Sep-13	Band 4	Band 3	
Caloosahatchee Backpumping with STA	Sep-15	Band 4	Band 3	
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures	Jul-03	Band 4	Band 3	
Lake Okeechobee ASR				
- Lake Okeechobee ASR - Part 1	Jun-20	Band 4	Band 3	
C-43 Basin ASR	Mar-12	Band 3	Band 3	

Band 3 (2015-2020)

Component/ Project Name	Comp Plan (April 1999)	MISP Phase 1	MISP Streamlined (current)	
Big Cypress/ L-28 Interceptor	Sep-16	Band 4	Band 4	Band 4 (2020-2025)
Indian River Lagoon - South				
- Natural Areas (Complete Construction)		Band 5	Band 4	
- Muck Remediation		Band 6	Band 4	
Restoration of Pineland & Hardwood in C-111 Basin	Mar-06	Band 4	Band 4	
South Miami-Dade County Reuse	Jun-20	Band 4	Band 4	
West Miami-Dade County Reuse	Jun-20	Band 4	Band 4	
Lake Okeechobee ASR				
- Lake Okeechobee ASR - Part 2		Band 5	Band 4	
Hillsboro ASR	Oct-14	Band 4	Band 4	
WCA 2B Flows to Evergaldes National Park				
- WCA 2B Flows to CLB (L-30 Improvements)		Band 4	Band 4	
- WCA 2B Flows to CLB		Band 5	Band 4	
Lake Okeechobee ASR				Band 5 (2025-2030)
- Lake Okeechobee ASR - Part 3		Band 5	Band 5	
North Lake Belt Storage Area - Phase 1	Feb-21	Band 5	Band 5	
Central Lake Belt Storage Area - Phase 1	Feb-21	Band 5	Band 5	
North Lake Belt Storage Area - Phase 2	Jun-36	Band 7	Band 7	Band 7 (2035-2040)
Central Lake Belt Storage Area - Phase 2	Dec-36	Band 7	Band 7	

1

2

SECTION 6-12: FLORIDA FOREVER GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

INTRODUCTION

Included in this section are the Florida Forever Goals and Performance Measures that apply to both the FDEP and water management districts. When the goals and performance measures for the Florida Forever program were developed in collaboration with the Florida Forever Advisory Council (FFAC), it was envisioned that these criteria would serve as a guide to land acquisition using Florida Forever funds. While the majority of funds expected to be received by the SFWMD will be used to acquire land for CERP or the Kissimmee River Restoration projects, final footprints are not always available at the time land acquisition occurs. This is especially true for CERP projects, as most are in the early stages of their development and exact locations will not be available for some time. The Florida Forever Goals and Performance Measures thus provide a guide for acquisition managers as they make purchases. As land managers identify tracts for specific projects, they must, at the same time, identify which goals and performance measures the tracts satisfy. To make that process easier, **Table 6-17**, Florida Forever Goals, Performance Measures, and Projects identifies how each of the projects satisfies one or more Florida Forever Goals and Performance Measures. In this way, as land managers acquire land for specific projects, they can all be sure that land satisfies the requirements of the Florida Forever program.

The Goals and Performance Measures are outlined as part of Section 259.105 of the Florida Statutes.

Effect of Proposed Changes:

1. Section 259.105(4), F.S., is amended to provide new goals and performance measures for the Florida Forever programs of the FDEP and water management districts. They include:

(Goal) (a) Enhance the coordination and completion of land acquisition projects, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired through the state's land acquisition programs that contribute to the completion of Florida Preservation 2000 projects or projects begun before Preservation 2000;
1. The number of acres protected through the use of alternatives to fee simple acquisition; or
1. The number of shared acquisition projects among Florida Forever funding partners and partners with other funding sources, including local governments and the federal government.

(Goal) (b) Increase the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species, natural community, and landscape levels, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired of significant strategic habitat conservation areas;
2. The number of acres acquired of highest priority conservation areas for Florida's rarest species;
3. The number of acres acquired of significant landscapes, landscape linkages, and conservation corridors, giving priority to completing linkages;
4. The number of acres acquired of under-represented native ecosystems;

5. The number of landscape-sized protection areas of at least 50,000 acres that exhibit a mosaic of predominantly intact or restorable natural communities established through new acquisition projects, or augmentations to previous projects; or
6. The percentage increase in the number of occurrences of endangered species, threatened species, or species of special concern on publicly managed conservation areas.

(Goal) (c) Protect, restore, and maintain the quality and natural functions of land, water, and wetland systems of the state, as measured by:

1. The number of acres of publicly owned land identified as needing restoration, acres undergoing restoration, and acres with restoration activities completed;
2. The percentage of water segments that fully meet, partially meet, or do not meet their designated uses as reported in the Department of Environmental Protection's State Water Quality Assessment 305(b) Report;
3. The percentage completion of targeted capital improvements in surface water improvement and management plans created under Section 373.453(2), F.S., regional or master stormwater management system plans, or other adopted restoration plans;
4. The number of acres acquired that protect natural floodplain functions;
5. The number of acres acquired that protect surface waters of the state;
6. The number of acres identified for acquisition to minimize damage from flooding and the percentage of those acres acquired;
7. The number of acres acquired that protect fragile coastal resources;
8. The number of acres of functional wetland systems protected;
9. The percentage of miles of critically eroding beaches contiguous with public lands that are restored or protected from further erosion;
10. The percentage of public lakes and rivers in which invasive, non-native aquatic plants are under maintenance control; or
11. The number of acres of public conservation lands in which upland invasive, exotic plants are under maintenance control.

(Goal) (d) Ensure that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and the citizens of the state, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired which provide retention and storage of surface water in naturally occurring storage areas, such as lakes and wetlands, consistent with the maintenance of water resources or water supplies and consistent with district water supply plans;
2. The quantity of water made available through the water resource development component of a district water supply plan for which a water management district is responsible; or
3. The number of acres acquired of groundwater recharge areas critical to springs, sinks, aquifers, other natural systems or water supply.

(Goal) (e) Increase natural resource-based public recreational and educational opportunities, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired that are available for natural resource-based public recreation or education;

2. The miles of trails that are available for public recreation, giving priority to those that provide significant connections including those that will assist in completing the Florida National Scenic Trail; or
3. The number of new resource-based recreation facilities, by type, made available on public land.

(Goal) (f) Preserve significant archaeological or historic sites, as measured by:

1. The increase in the number of and percentage of historic and archaeological properties listed in the Florida Master Site File or National Register of Historic Places which are protected or preserved for public use; or
2. The increase in the number and percentage of historic and archaeological properties that are in state ownership.

(Goal) (g) Increase the amount of forestland available for sustainable management of natural resources, as measured by:

1. The number of acres acquired that are available for sustainable forest management;
2. The number of acres of state owned forestland managed for economic return in accordance with current best management practices;
3. The number of acres of forestland acquired that will serve to maintain natural groundwater recharge functions; or
4. The percentage and number of acres identified for restoration actually restored by reforestation.

(Goal) (h) Increase the amount of open space available in urban areas, as measured by:

1. The percentage of local governments that participate in land acquisition programs and acquire open space in urban cores; or
2. The percentage and number of acres of purchases of open space within urban service areas.

1 **Table 6-17.** Florida Forever goals, performance measures, and projects.

Goals									Project Name
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	ID	
3		2	2	1,2,3				38	Acme Basin B Discharge (OPE)
3		5	2	1,2,3				10	Big Cypress/L-28 Interceptor Modifications (CCC)
3			2	1,2,3				43	Bird Drive Recharge Area (U)
3		7,2	1	1,2,3				28	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (FFF/ OPE)
3		7,2	1	1,2,3				28	Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (Acceler8)
									Biscayne Bay SWIM Plan
3		2	1	1,2,3				49	Broward County WPA Conveyance (BB, XX,P1)
3			1	1,2,3				24	Broward County Secondary Canal System (CC) (P1)
3		2	2	1,2,3				45	Broward County WPA (C-9 & C-11 Impoundments & WCA-3A & 3-B Levee Seepage Management) (O,Q)
3		2	2	1,2,3				45	Broward County WPA (C-9 & C-11 Impoundments & WCA-3A & 3-B Levee Seepage Management) (Acceler8)
3	3	2	1	1,2,3				29	C-111 Spreader Canal (WW) (WW)
3	3	2	1	1,2,3				29	C-111 Spreader Canal (Acceler8)
3			2,3	1,2,3				4	C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir and ASR Part 1 (DP1)
3			2	1,2,3				5	C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir and ASR Part 2 (DP2)
3			2	1,2,3				5	C-43 Basin Storage West Reservoir (Acceler8)
3		2		1,2,3				6	Caloosahatchee Backpumping with Stormwater Treatment (DDD)
3			2	1,2,3				33	Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Basin ASR Pilot Project (Pilot)
									C-44 Reservoir and STA (Acceler8)
3			2,3	1,2,3				26	Central Lake Belt Storage Area Phase 2 (SP2)
1,3	1,2,3,5	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10,11	1,3	1,2,3					CREW
3			1,2	1,2,3				23	Diverting WCA Flows to Central Lake Belt Storage Area
3			3	1,2,3				46	East Coast Canal Structures (C-4) (T)
3		2	2,3	1,2,3				8	Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Phase I & 2 (GP1&2)
									Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir – Phase 1 with Booles and Cross Canals Improvement (Acceler8)
									Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Areas Expansion (Acceler8)
									Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basins Long-term Plan
3			2	1,2,3				27	Everglades National Park Seepage Management) (V,FF)
		3							Estero Bay Watershed
		7,9							Florida Bay Restoration Initiative
3	3			1,2,3				31	Florida Keys Tidal Restoration (OPE/FK)
3	3			1,2,3				11	Flow to Northwest and Central WCA -3A (II)(RR)
3				1,2,3				93	Henderson Creek/Belle Meade Restoration (OPE)
				1,2,3				22	Hillsboro ASR Pilot (MP2)
3		1,2,4,5	1,2	1,2,3				7	Indian River Lagoon South, C-23/C-24/C-25/Northfork and Southfork Storage Reservoirs (UU), and C-44 Basin Storage Reservoir (B)

Goals									Project Name
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	ID	
									Indian River Lagoon SWIM
		3							Kissimmee Basin Minimum Flows and Levels Development
1,2		1,4							Kissimmee River (Lower Basin)
1,2		1,4							Kissimmee River (Upper Basin)
1,2		2,10							Kissimmee River Chain of Lakes Long-Term Management Plan
		2,3							Kissimmee River Water Supply Plan Development & Coordination
1,2		1,4							Kissimmee River Restoration and Evaluation
1,2		1,4							Kissimmee River Restoration Project
3			2	1,2,3				36	L-31 N Seepage Management Pilot Project (Pilot)
3			1,2	1,2,3				35	Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Technology - Pilot Project (Pilot)
		3							Lake Istokpoga
3				1,2,3				2	Lake Istokpoga Regulation Schedule (OPE)
3			1,2	1,2,3				32	Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project (Pilot)
3			2	1,2,3				3	Lake Okeechobee ASR (GG P1, GGP2,GGP3)
3				1,2,3				1	Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule
		1							Lake Okeechobee SWIM Plan
3		1,2, 4,5	1,2	1,2,3				1	Lake Okeechobee Watershed (A) OPE (LOTSD) (W)
		3,7							Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative
				1,2,3				94	Lakes Park Restoration (OPE)
									Lemkim Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility
3	3			1,2,3				14	Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures (KK)
		4		2					Loxahatchee Preservation Initiative
		11		1,2,3				95	Melaleuca Eradication Project and other Exotic Plants
3				1,2,3				90	Miccosukee Tribe Water Management Plan (OPE)
3				1,2,3				15	Modified Holeyland Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan (DD)
3				1,2,3				16	Modified Rotenberger Wildlife Management Area Operation Plan (EE)
		3							Naples Bay Initiative
3			2,3	1,2,3				25	North Lake Belt Storage Area (Phase I & II) (XXP2)
3		1,2, 4,5	1,3	1,2,3				17	North Palm Beach County Part 1 ((OPE)(PAL-Mar)(KP1,GGG) OPE (LWL) (X,Y)
3			2	1,2,3				18	North Palm Beach County Part 2 (LL,KP2)
			2						Okeechobee County
1,3	3	11							Pal Mar (West Jupiter Wetlands)
3		2	2,3	1,2,3				20,21	Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir and ASR (WP1) (WP2)
3		1,4, 6	2	1,2,3				30	Picayune Strand Restoration a/k/a Southern Golden Gates Estates (OPE)
3		1,4, 6	2	1,2,3				30	Picayune Strand Restoration (Acceler8)
3	1			1,2,3				39	Protect and Enhance Existing Wetland Systems along LNWR (Strazzulla Tract) (OPE)
				1,2,3				92	Restoration of Pineland and Hardwood Hammocks in C-111 Basin
3				1,2,3				96	Seminole Tribe Big Cypress Water Conservation Plan (OPE)

Goals									Project Name
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	ID	
3			1,2	1,2,3				34	Site 1 Impoundment and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (Pilot)
3		2	2,3	1,2,3				40	Site 1 Impoundment and Aquifer Storage and Recovery (MP1)
3			2	1,2,3				98	South Miami-Dade County Reuse (BBB)
									St. Lucie River Issue Team
3			2	1,2,3				37	Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot Project (Pilot)
				1,2,3				48	WCA - 2B Flows to ENP (YY, SP1)
2				1,2,3				47	WCA - 3A & - 3B Flows to CLBSA (ZZ)
3	3			1,2,3				12,13	WCA -3 Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement (QQP1, SSP2, SSP1,AA) (QQP 2) WCA Conveyance
			2						WCA Conveyance
3			2	1,2,3				97	West Miami-Dade County Reuse (HHH)
				1,2,3				91	Winsburg Farms Wetland Restoration (OPE)
		2							Western Basin

SECTION 6-13: CURRENT FLORIDA FOREVER ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Florida Forever Work Plan is to present projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act (Section 259.105, F.S.). The District's 2006 Florida Forever Work Plan lists and describes projects eligible for Florida Forever funding during the FY2006–FY2010 time period. The list of eligible projects includes CERP, Acceler8, and SOR projects and other water quality and supply initiatives, plans, and studies.

ELIGIBLE COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN PROJECTS

Information for CERP projects is included in the Project Management Plan (PMP) for each project. Current approved versions of all CERP PMPs, as well as in progress drafts are made available at www.evergladesplan.org/. The following list summarizes all eligible CERP projects:

Full-Scale CERP Projects

- Acme Basin B Discharge
- Big Cypress/L-28 Modifications
- Bird Drive Recharge Area (as part of ENP Seepage Management)
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands
- Broward County Secondary Canal System
- Broward County Water Preserve Areas (WPA)
- C-43 Basin Storage Reservoir – Part 1
- C-43 Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Part 2
- C-111 Spreader Canal
- Caloosahatchee Backpumping with Stormwater Treatment
- Central Lake Belt Storage
- Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir, Phases 1 and 2
- Everglades National Park Seepage Management
- Florida Keys Tidal Restoration
- Flow to Northwest and Central Water Conservation Area 3A
- Indian River Lagoon – South (including C-44 Reservoir/STA and Allapattah)
- Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Lake Okeechobee Watershed
- Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge Internal Canal Structures
- Melaleuca Eradication and Other Exotic Plants
- North Lake Belt Storage Area
- North Palm Beach County – Part 1
- Palm Beach County Agriculture Reserve Reservoir – Part 1
- Site 1 Impoundment

- Picayune Strand (formerly, Southern Golden Gates Estates) Hydrologic Restoration
- Strazzulla Wetlands
- Water Conservation Area 3 Decompartmentalization and Sheetflow Enhancement – Part 1
- Water Conservation Area 2B Flows to Everglades National Park
- Water Conservation Area 3A/3B Flows to Central Lake Belt
- Water Preserve Area Conveyance

Acceler8 Projects

- C-44 (St Lucie Canal) Reservoir/Stormwater Treatment Area
- C-43 (Caloosahatchee River) West Reservoir
- Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir – Phase 1 with Bolles and Cross Canal Improvements
- Everglades Agricultural Area Stormwater Treatment Areas Expansion
- Water Preserve Areas – includes Site 1, C-9 and C-11 Impoundments, Acme Basin B and Water Conservation Area 3A/3B Levee Seepage Management
- Picayune Strand (f/k/a Southern Golden Gates Estates) Hydrologic Restoration
- Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands – Phase 1
- C-111 Spreader Canal

Pilot Projects

- Lake Okeechobee Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot
- Lake Belt In-Ground Reservoir Pilot
- Caloosahatchee River (C-43) Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot
- Hillsboro Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot
- L-31N Seepage Management Pilot
- Wastewater Reuse Technology Pilot

ELIGIBLE KISSIMMEE REGION PROJECTS

Information on the Kissimmee Region is included in *Section 6-3* of this chapter. The following list summarizes all eligible projects within the region:

- Kissimmee Basin Water Supply Plan Development and Coordination
- Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Long-Term Management Plan
- Kissimmee River Restoration Evaluation
- Kissimmee River Restoration Project

ELIGIBLE SAVE OUR RIVERS PROJECTS

Descriptions of the eligible Save Our Rivers Projects are provided in *Section 6-10*. Additional information and project maps can be obtained from the Save Our Rivers Land Acquisition and Management Plan, available at www.sfwmd.gov; select Major Projects; select SOR.

- CREW
- C-111/L-31N
- Kissimmee River (Lower Basin)
- Kissimmee River (Upper Basin)
- Pal Mar (West Jupiter Wetlands)

OTHER ELIGIBLE WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS

- Biscayne Bay SWIM Plan
- Caloosahatchee River Watershed Initiatives
- Charlotte Harbor Watershed Initiatives
- Estero Bay Watershed
- Everglades Protection Area Tributary Basin Long Term Plan
- Florida Bay Initiative
- Four Corners
- Indian River Lagoon (IRL) SWIM Plan
- Lake Istokpoga
- Lake Okeechobee SWIM Plan
- Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative
- Lemkin Creek Water Storage and Treatment Facility
- Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan
- Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative
- Naples Bay Initiative
- St. Lucie River Issue Team
- Western Basin

SECTION 6-14: LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT

LAND ACQUISITION ACTIVITY REPORT

The SFWMD land acquisition activity for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 (FY2005), culminated with the purchase of 10,916 acres of land for a total cost of $173.6 million. The acquisitions were funded by the state's Florida Forever Program (FF, SOETF), Save Our Rivers Program (P-2000); and other funds provided by the District, federal, state, and local governments. See **Table 6-18** for additional details.

2005 Land Acquisition Highlights

- $91.2 million used to purchase 4,765 acres for CERP Projects
- $82.1 million used to purchase 6,135 acres for SOR Projects that includes:
- $61.7 million used to acquire 5,092 acres for the Kissimmee River Restoration Project
- Over $3.15 million of mitigation funding was used to acquire SOR lands
- Local governments contributed $739,672 for acquisition of lands
- Federal government contributed $431,000 for acquisition of lands
- SFWMD funded $20,740,635 million in land acquisitions
- $74.5 million and $68.7 funded through the Florida Forever and SOETF programs, respectively
- $5.38 million funded through the State's Save Our Rivers Program

Lands acquired for CERP will be used to provide enhanced water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution. The 2,905 acres of land acquired for the Indian River Lagoon – South project will be used for the C-23/C-24 South Reservoir & STA, North Fork Flood Plain and Restoration, and the Cypress Creek Complex. The 66 acres acquired for the Broward County WPA project will be used for construction of the C-11 Impoundment and the WCA-3A/3B Levee Seepage Management area. Slightly more than 83 percent of the land required for the Broward County WPA project has been acquired. In addition, The District continues its acquisition program in Miami-Dade County, acquiring 57 acres for the Bird Drive Recharge Area and 75 acres for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands projects. In addition to acquiring lands for Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands project, the District received a 240-acre donation of land within the project area from Florida Power and Light as mitigation for expansion of the Turkey Point power plant.

The 1,800-acre Lee property was acquired during FY2005, nearly completing the land acquisitions for the Pal-Mar and J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area Hydropattern Restoration component of the North Palm Beach County – Part 1 CERP project. In order to overcome funding constraints, this acquisition was accomplished using a three-year option agreement; $16.2 million was expended in FY2005; additional payments totaling $19.4 million and $10.1 million are scheduled in FY2006 and FY2007, respectively.

The District has acquired more than half the lands needed to implement CERP. The acres acquired in FY2005 increased the total lands available for use by CERP projects to 206,610 acres. The District's aggressive purchase of land, in advance of project plans being approved by Congress, has provided the real estate needed for construction of Acceler8 projects **(**see *Section 6-11*).

The land acquisitions accomplished by the District in FY2005 were possible only through the support and coordination of local, state, and federal governments; state and federal agencies; and in cooperation with the general public. The following table provides additional details regarding the lands acquired, by project and funding source.

No lands were surplused by the SFWMD in FY2005.

Table 6-18. Acquisition Activity Report (Fiscal Year 2005).

LAND ACQUISITIONS (01-OCT-2004 THROUGH 30-SEP-2005)												
Project Names	**Parcel**	**Acres**	**Price**	**CARL**	**DISTRICT**	**FEDERAL**	**STATE**	**Local Gov't**	**MITIGATION**	**P-2000**	**WMLTF/LATF**	**FL**
Broward County WPA (CERP)												
C-11 Impoundment	1	10	$829,600									
WCA 3A & 3B Seepage Management	11	57	$5,666,270		$427,700.00							
Bird Drive Recharge Area (CERP)	27	57	$2,670,620		$19,485	$9,500						
Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (CERP)*	5	315	$2,104,700									$
C-4 Emergency Detention	0	0	$0									
Central Lake Belt Storage Reservoir - Part I	0	0	$0									
Corkscrew Reginal Ecosystem Watershed (CREW)												
Critical CREW	19	124	$1,843,100			$422,400						$
Flint Pen Strand	5	87	$59,250						$59,250			
Everglades Agricultural Area												
East Coast Buffer/WPAs												
Pennsucco Wetlands	2	180	$2,700,000					$729,990	$1,970,010			
Faka Union												
Indian River Lagoon - South (CERP)												
Allapattah	0	0	$0									
C-23/24 North Reservoir	4	1,145	$13,234,720									
C-23/24 South Reservoir	2	127	$2,608,330									
C-23/24 STA	2	382	$7,460,000									
Cypress Creek Complex	1	1,233	$20,349,615									
North Fork Flood Plain Restoration	1	8	$42,000									
North Palm Beach County - Part 1 (CERP)												
Pal Mar Complex & Southfork	1	1,421	$36,208,191		$20,000,000							
Kissimmee Field Station	2	17	$293,440		$293,440							
Kissimmee River Restoration (KRR)												
Kissimmee River (KR)	32	4,596	$56,043,331									$
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (KCOL)	25	496	$5,674,600							$5,381,800		
L-31N	21	462	$14,644,100									$
Lake Okeechobee Watershed (CERP)												
Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Storage Treatment Area	0	0	$0									
PBC Agricultural Reserve Reservoir - Part 1	0	0	$0									
Pal Mar	25	19	$38,727					$9,682				
Shingle Creek	12	171	$1,123,544						$1,123,544			
Stormwater Treatment Area	0	0	$0									
Water Conservation Area	0	0	$0									
Totals	**198**	**10,916**	**$173,594,138**	**$0**	**$20,740,635**	**$431,900**	**$0**	**$739,672**	**$3,152,804**	**$5,381,800**	**$0**	**$**

* Acquisitions for Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (CERP) include a 240 acre donation of land.

LAND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITY REPORT

Background and History

The Save Our Rivers program began in 1981 with the legislative enactment of the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, Chapter 373.59, F.S., which enabled the five water management districts to buy lands needed for water management, water supply, and the conservation and protection of water resources, and to make them available for appropriate public use. Since that time the SFWMD and its acquisition partners have purchased 378,382 acres of environmentally sensitive land (not including 800,000 acres in the three Water Conservation Areas). Water resource projects, or those lands associated with CERP consisting largely of impacted agricultural lands, have added another 206,109 acres.

Land Stewardship Program Operational Structure

The Land Stewardship Program is responsible for the planning and management of SOR lands and the implementation and administration of mitigation banks and regional offsite mitigation areas. The program has direct management responsibility for 177,000 acres in 13 projects, including two mitigation banks and several regional mitigation areas. For the 133,000 acres of non-District-managed lands, contracts, agreements, or leases have been entered into with other agencies or local governments.

The major goals of the program are to restore the lands to their natural state and condition, manage them in an environmentally acceptable manner, and to provide public recreational opportunities that are compatible with natural resources protection. The program is implemented by a professional staff of 27 based in five service centers and at the District headquarters in West Palm Beach.

Land Stewardship Program

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Complete/update management plans for all projects
- Control invasive exotics
- Restore natural fire regime
- Restore native communities
- Employ multiple use practices
- Open lands for appropriate public use
- Implement two mitigation banks and offsite mitigation per permit conditions

PROGRAM FINANCES

Since its inception in the early 1980s, the Land Stewardship Program has been funded by a variety of sources. District *ad valorem* taxes have not been utilized for management since 1989. The principal source of management funding has been the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, which utilizes a portion of the state's documentary tax revenue to pay for land management activities. The fund reimburses actual expenditures based on quarterly invoices to the FDEP, which administers the fund. Appropriate expenditures are identified in the District's annual

budget and approved by the Governing Board by a resolution to FDEP. Since 2000, use of these funds has been limited to land management costs or to retire the District's land acquisition bonds.

Other funding sources include off-site mitigation, lease revenues, and grants. Offsite mitigation funds are collected as a result of conditions placed on Environmental Resource Management Permits approved by the Governing Board for authorized regional mitigation activities. These funds must be spent strictly in accordance with the permit requirements for land acquisition, restoration, and general maintenance of the mitigation lands. This form of mitigation allows the District to direct mitigation dollars where they benefit the South Florida ecosystem. Land Stewardship Program staff obtained several grants to fund specific restoration projects on District lands. Low-intensity cattle leases generate modest lease revenues, but may also require substantial in-kind services from the lessee. Additional in-kind services are provided by state and local governments as well as numerous recreational groups and individual volunteers.

Management activities for FY2005 are anticipated to occur on 557,460 acres of land at an estimated total cost of $11.3 million or unit cost of $20/acre.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LAND RESOURCES

Chapter 373.59, F.S. the originating legislation of the Save Our Rivers program, states that lands acquired through this program "shall be managed and maintained in an environmentally acceptable manner and, to the extent practicable, in such a way as to restore and protect their natural state and condition." Major components of the Land Stewardship Program include the following:

Hydrologic/Habitat Restoration

A major thrust of the Land Stewardship Program is to protect and restore the flow-ways, watersheds, and wetlands, all of which are critical to the water resources of the District. Hydrologic restoration has been accomplished on numerous SOR projects, which range from installing earthen ditch plugs to rehydrate isolated wetlands, to constructing at-grade road crossings to restore sheetflow, to constructing levees and water control structures to reflood former Everglades marsh. Upland restoration efforts include timber thinning and chopping for the planned reintroduction of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers, pine plantings to return pasture to pine flatwoods, and the creation of hardwood hammock and forested wetlands in the southern Everglades.

Exotic Plant Control

The District is committed to reducing the proliferation of exotic plant infestations and eradicating the problem where possible. Exotic control consists of the proper application of various environmentally acceptable chemical herbicides combined with mechanical techniques performed by staff or private contractors. Cooperators who manage District lands under contract or lease are strongly encouraged to apply a similarly aggressive approach to exotic plant control. Exotic control is consistently the single largest item in the Land Stewardship Program annual budget.

Prescribed Burning

Periodic fire is a natural element of native Florida ecosystems. The District uses prescribed burning to reduce hazardous build-up of vegetative fuel loads, enhance wildlife habitat, and encourage restoration of native plant communities. The District burns its lands to simulate natural fire cycles which benefits native plant communities. The SFWMD's goal is to conduct at least 50

percent of its prescribed burns during the growing season to mimic the natural occurrence of lightning-season fires. The fire management program is based on ecological research and proven safety standards and requires trained and experienced staff familiar with the diverse and unique fire management needs of the Florida landscape.

Public Use and Environmental Education

The District encourages use of its lands for appropriate outdoor recreational activities. All SOR lands are available for public use except in rare instances where there is no legal public access or where contract or lease restrictions prohibit the public. The vast majority are managed as semi-wilderness areas, with very limited vehicular access other than off-road parking. Opportunities include hiking, primitive camping, canoeing, fishing, and horseback riding, with volunteers from various user groups maintaining the trails and wilderness campsites. Cooperative agreements with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) enable high-quality, low-impact hunting on nearly 160,000 acres. Acquisition and management partners from several counties have constructed environmental education centers, boardwalks, and interpretive trails, all at no cost to the District, that are used by thousands of school children and adults annually.

Mitigation

Under Chapter 373, F.S. the District is authorized to participate in, and encourage the development of private and public mitigation banks and regional offsite mitigation areas. Furthermore, the state's mitigation banking rule, Chapter 62-342, encourages each water management district to establish two mitigation banks. The use of mitigation and mitigation banking offers opportunities to generate revenue that will supplement funding of the District's land acquisition, restoration, and management programs.

The SFWMD's mitigation bank sites include the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank in Palm Beach County and the Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank in Lee County. The District is developing each bank in a public/private contractual agreement. Private bankers obtain permits, restore the land, reimburse the District for its land acquisition and staff costs, and then generate a revenue stream for future projects.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

The project summary section provides a brief description of each Save Our Rivers project, organized by land management region, including maps of the five management regions.

Tables 6-19 and **6-20** describe land acquisition status and public use opportunities.

UPPER LAKES LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, ORLANDO SERVICE CENTER

Kissimmee Chain of Lakes (District managed)

- County: Osceola/Polk
- Project size: 36,763 acres
- District ownership: 35,563 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Acquisition of the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes project was designed to provide the capacity to store and flow water up to the 54-ft NGVD contour line. Public access to most of the land is by boat. Resource management goals for the Chain of Lakes are to maintain and, where possible, restore natural communities, provide cost-effective resource protection, and provide opportunities for compatible public use. In FY2005 20,000 acres were treated for exotic plants. Staff also mowed 3,000 acres of semi-improved pasture to reduce nuisance native and exotic plants and to improve the conditions of the altered wet prairie communities on Gardner-Cobb Marsh, Lightsey Units, Catfish Creek, and East Shoreline. Approximately 2,000 acres were burned utilizing prescribed fire. There are several cattle leases and grazing reservations within the KCOL Management Area.. There are three Natural Resources Conservation Service restoration projects planned for FY2006.

Lake Marion Creek (District managed)

- County: Polk
- Project size: 17,300 acres
- District ownership: 7,067 acres
- Acquisition partners: Polk County, SWFWMD, USFWS

Lake Marion Creek is in Polk County and flows from Lake Marion to Lake Hatchineha. Contained within the project are scrub, sand hills, pine flatwoods, and riverine swamp forests. Lands in this project have been acquired with the assistance from Polk County, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Primary stewardship activities include prescribed burning, exotic plant control, resource protection, and public use. The FWC participates as a cooperative management partner by conducting a hunt program and security patrols. The area is managed as a Type 1 Wildlife Management Area. In 2005, 28 tons of garbage from 300 acres of scrub were removed to improve sand skink and scrub jay habitat. Additional scrub may be acquired in 2006. During 2005, 1,090 acres were burned. Exotic treatment of 100 acres of lygodium and cogon grass occurred in 2005. Scrub jay and sand skink surveys were completed in 2005 by private contractors. The majority of the property is open for hiking year-round and camping is available by Special Use License. The management plan was completed in 2005. SFWMD may enter into a cooperative agreement with the USFWS to manage 137 acres of adjoining scrub.

SUMICA, formerly known as Lake Walk-in-Water (managed by Polk County)

- County: Polk
- Project size: 4,009 acres
- District ownership: 4,009 acres
- Acquisition partners: Polk County

Polk County participated as a 50 percent acquisition partner under its Environmental Lands Program, and the County is also lead manager. A five-year management plan was prepared by the County and approved by SFWMD. SUMICA, formerly known as Lake Walk-in-Water, is named after the historic logging town that existed on the site in the 1920s. During 2005, two special opportunity hog hunts were conducted. Current public uses include hiking, hunting, camping, and horseback riding. There is an elevated walking trail to access the old elevated Railroad tram, and observation area.

Reedy Creek (District managed)

- County: Osceola
- Project size: 30,000 acres
- District ownership: 5,483 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

For management purposes the project is divided into Upper and Lower Reedy Creek. The Upper Reedy Creek Management Area includes those lands north of Pleasant Hill Road and is 4,800 acres. The Lower Reedy Creek Management Area encompasses seven miles of creek corridor and totals 5,483 acres under District ownership. Management goals for both areas are to conserve and protect water resources and supplies, protect and restore the land in its natural state and condition, and provide compatible public use opportunities. The Lake Russell Management Unit in Poinciana is jointly managed by Osceola County Schools as an environmental education facility. A center with classrooms and displays provides interpretation to the scrub, Lake Russell, and the floodplain swamp communities that exist on site. An interpretive hiking trail describes the unique plant communities and wildlife that exist in the scrub habitat of the site. District staff treated 3,000 acres of exotic vegetation in FY2005. FWC has identified the area of Lower Reedy Creek as a "Strategic Habitat Conservation Area," a "Biodiversity Hotspot," and a "Priority Wetland for Listed Species." These designations make the area a priority for preservation based on known occurrences of rare or listed species. There are two cattle leases and grazing reservations within the Reedy Creek Management Area.

Shingle Creek (District managed)

- County: Orange/Osceola
- Project size: 7,655 acres
- District ownership: 1,628 acres (includes conservation easement of 124 acres)
- Acquisition partners: Acquired through Mitigation

The District has undertaken several successful restoration projects within Shingle Creek Swamp funded as mitigation to offset wetland impacts associated with construction of the Orlando Beltway. In 2005, 125 acres were prescribe burned, and the entire 1,700 acres were surveyed and spot treated for exotic vegetation. The Marriott development in the northwest corner of the project has constructed a parking area and boardwalk/trail that leads to the north swamp. In 2005, SFWMD staff worked on securing two separate public access points that will be available to the public in fall 2005. Construction of the pedestrian walkway to Hunter's Creek Middle School to the Shingle Creek management area is currently under construction. Signage at the three parking area access points should also be completed by FY2006.

Tibet Butler Preserve (managed by Orange County)

- County: Orange
- Project size: 439 acres
- District ownership: 439
- Acquisition partners: None

The Preserve covers 439 acres along the southwest shore of Lake Tibet Butler in Orange County. Vegetative communities include bay swamp, pine flatwoods, cypress swamp, and smaller areas of xeric oak and freshwater marsh. The Tibet Butler Preserve site includes 4,000 feet of shoreline on Lake Tibet. Orange County Parks and Recreation Department manages Tibet Butler Preserve as an environmental education facility. The property is open for public use. A large enclosed education center with classrooms was constructed in 1994. It has a full-time staff, which conducts programs for thousands of students each year. Land managers also treat exotic vegetation and maintain the system of hiking trails and boardwalks that lead to the many community types on the property. Exotic control is limited due to the small number present on the site.

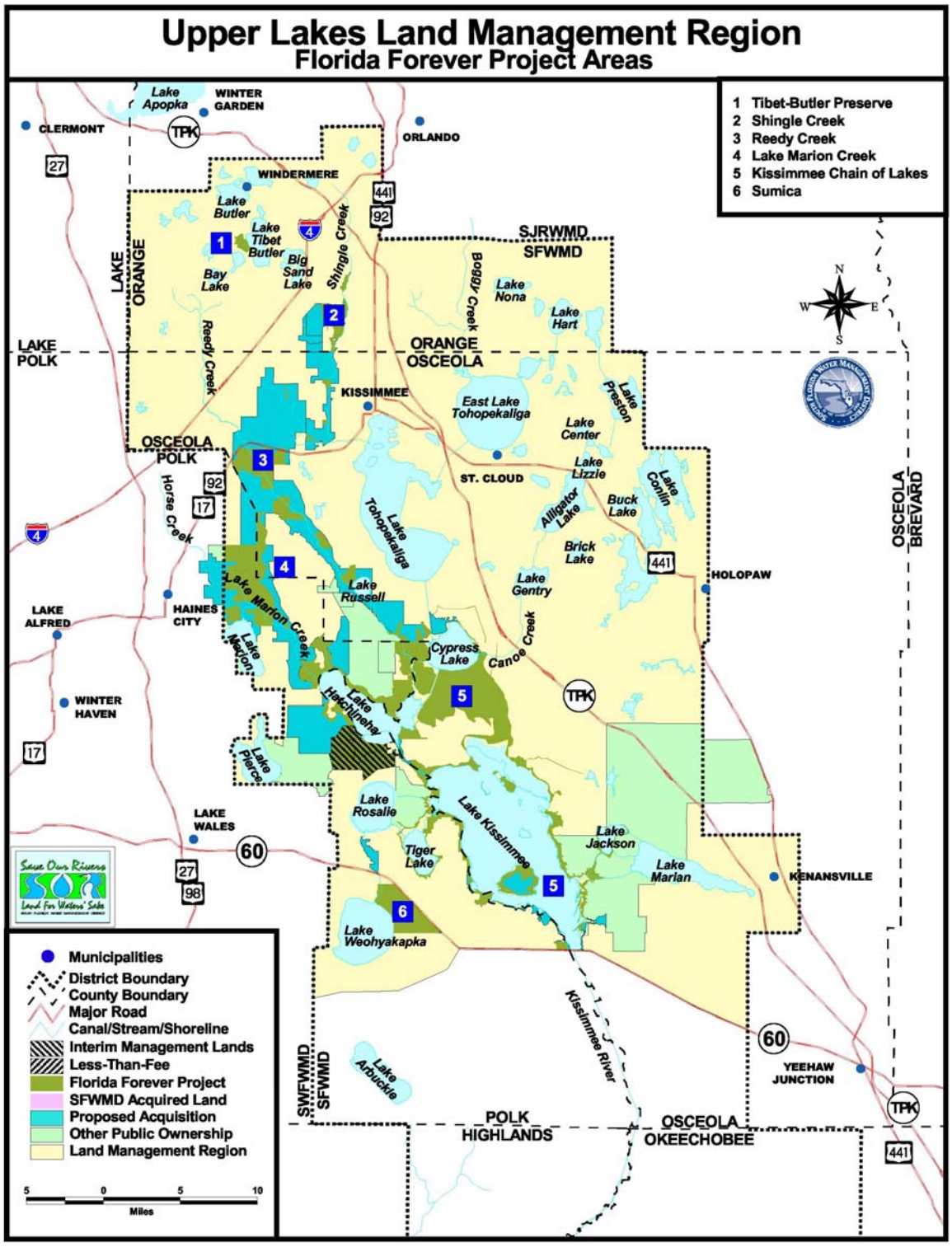

Figure 6-23. Upper Lakes Land Management Region.

KISSIMMEE/OKEECHOBEE LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, OKEECHOBEE SERVICE CENTER

Kissimmee Prairie Ecosystem (managed by FDEP)

- County: Okeechobee
- Project size: 38,282 acres
- District ownership: 38,282 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL

The project is managed by FDEP Division of Recreation and Parks under lease from the District and state and is known as Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. A state-approved management plan is in place that addresses prescribed burning, exotic control, and public use. Recreational uses include hiking, bicycling, camping, and horseback riding. Exotic treatments and prescribed burning are ongoing.

Kissimmee River (managed by District/FWC)

- County: Osceola/Polk/Highlands/Okeechobee
- Project size: 68,332 acres
- District ownership: 53,958 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Kissimmee River is cooperatively managed by the SFWMD and the FWC. The five-year plan for both areas includes prescribed burning, exotic plant control, upland shrub control, wildlife management, and forest management. In 2005, 3,000 acres were burned, 2000 acres were chemically treated for exotic plants, and 550 acres of overgrown shrub vegetation were mechanically shredded. A campground for equestrian use is under development in Hickory Hammock and scheduled for completion in the fall of 2005. An extensive public use program on the river attracted hundreds of visitors to the area and included hunting, fishing, horseback riding, nature watching, hiking, camping, and education programs through the Riverwoods Field lab.

Paradise Run (District managed)

- County: Glades
- Project size: 4,265 acres
- District ownership: 3,328 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The project lies west of canal 38, between S-65E and Lake Okeechobee. Unlike the other pools of the Kissimmee River, Level II backfilling (river restoration) will not re-flood Paradise Run, since it is controlled by the stage in Lake Okeechobee. Remnant river oxbows are still present, although the surrounding land has been drained and is now improved pasture. Paradise Run is open for public use, including hunting, under FWC's Public Use Area concept. There are two cattle leases in Paradise Run. In the past year, 50 acres were treated for exotic plant control. This property is slated for hydrological restoration under the Lake Okeechobee program.

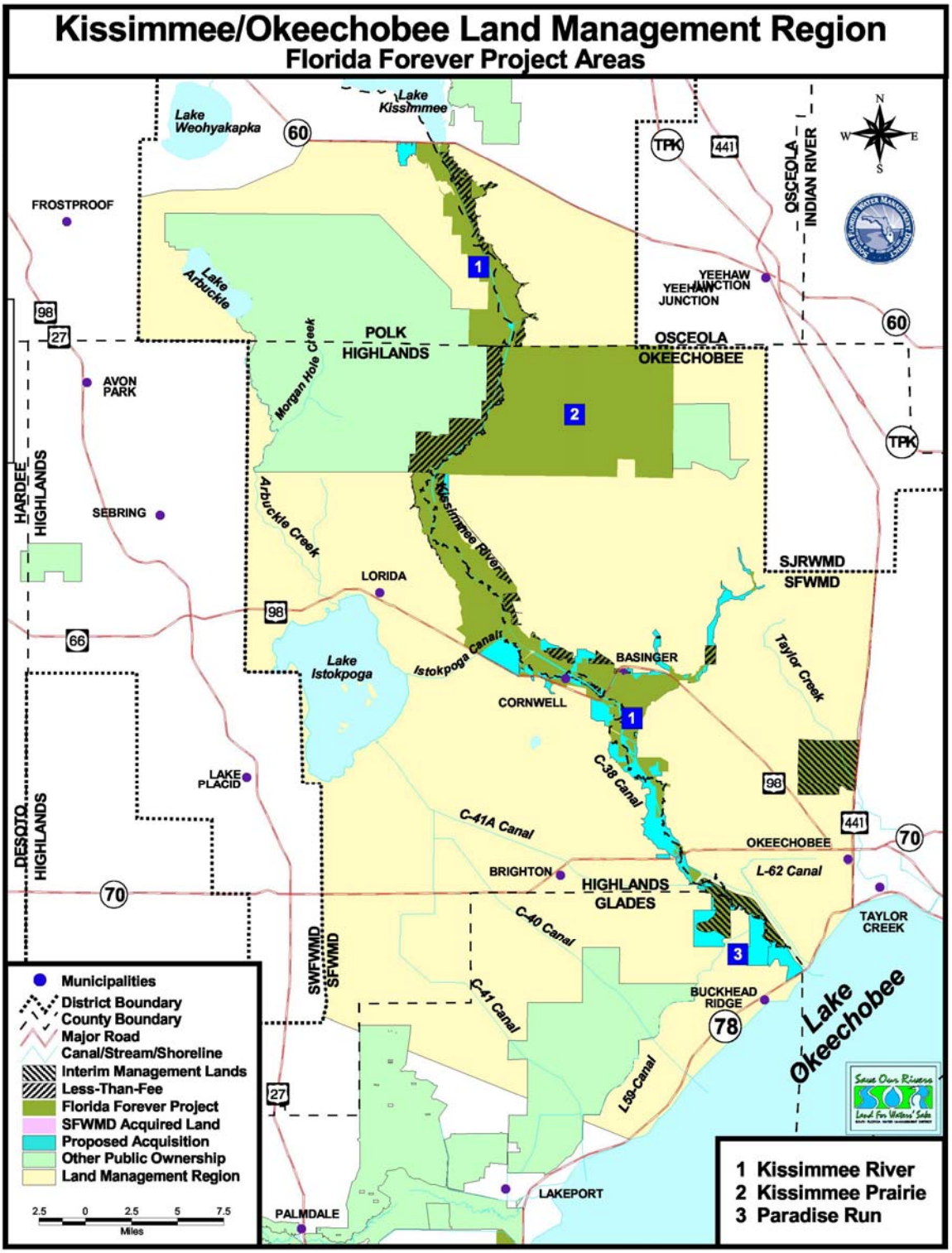

Figure 6-24. Kissimmee/Okeechobee Land Management Region.

1

EAST COAST LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, WEST PALM BEACH/DUPUIS

Allapattah Flats (District managed/FWC)

- County: Martin
- Project size: 42,348 acres
- District ownership: 21,407 acres
- Acquisition partners: Martin County, federal government

Allapattah was purchased as part of the Indian River Lagoon – South Project Implementation Report Recommended Plan of CERP, with funding assistance from Martin County and the federal government. It is proposed that the ditches and swales that were excavated to drain and improve the property for cattle grazing will be plugged and filled, that a low berm will be constructed at strategic locations to protect roadways, and that water control structures will be replaced to effect greater control of the site's water resources, allowing rehydration of the property's extensive wetland systems. Restoration will be partially funded through the NRCS. Flood attenuation and water quality improvement are the expected outcomes from the project, to provide a reduction in discharges to the C-23 canal and eventually the Indian River Lagoon. The Management Plan was adopted at the August 10, 2005 District Governing Board meeting. Management activities included continued treatment of exotic vegetation in 2005. Upland restoration activities continued with 315 acres of pasture in Parcel A and 185 acres in parcel B planted with slash pine. Wetland restoration activities were initiated on Parcel A, with over 17 miles of ditches plugged or filled to the benefit of over 2,500 acres. Discussions were held with FCW to have them take over as lead managers following completion of restoration activities. The August 10, 2005 District Governing Board approved the FWC assumption of a limited public use program retroactive to July 1, 2005 that will include hiking, bicycling, equestrian use, and hunting and fishing.

Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem (managed by Department of Environmental Protection)

- County: Martin
- Project size: 13,122 acres
- District ownership: 6,094 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL

Atlantic Ridge is being managed by FDEP, Division of Recreation and Parks under a joint management lease from SFWMD and the Division of State Lands. The area will be known as Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park. A management plan has been completed that outlines the goals and objectives for the park. The plan describes hydrologic restoration and staffing needs, plans for exotic control and prescribed burning, and a public use program. It is proposed that initial public facilities will include an interpretive kiosk, trailhead and hiking trails, and equestrian trails. Public access to the property is anticipated in mid-2006 through a new residential development off Cove Road.

Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee (managed by District/Palm Beach County)

- County: Palm Beach/Martin
- Project size: 4,347 acres

- District ownership: 3,547 acres
- Acquisition partners: Martin/Palm Beach counties

The project is divided between Martin and Palm Beach counties and forms connections with Pal-Mar and District-owned lands in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Nearly 3,000 acres are high-quality natural area, containing a mixture of pine flatwoods, cypress swamps, and freshwater marshes. The area is the headwaters to Cypress Creek, a major tributary to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The remainder of the site has been cleared and used for intensive agriculture for many years. In 2003, more than 3,500 acres were purchased; and in 2004, 820 acres of overgrown shrub vegetation were mechanically shredded and an exotics control program completed for the entire site. Also in 2004, a FWC officer was moved onsite to provide security, and a feral hog control program began. In 2005, an additional 400 acres were mechanically shredded, cattle pens demolished, and the entry road graded and cleared. Intense eradication treatments for the exotic plant Downy Rose Myrtle are under way and prescribed burns are planned. Restoration plans are under way to enhance the impacted natural areas and convert the agricultural lands to reservoirs or treatment marshes as a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program. The Management Plan was adopted at the August 10, 2005 District Governing Board meeting.

DuPuis Management Area (managed by District/FWC)

- County: Palm Beach/Martin
- Project size: 21,875 acres
- District ownership: 21,875 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The DuPuis Management Area is cooperatively managed by the SFWMD and FWC. The DuPuis five-year plan includes prescribed burning, exotic plant control, upland shrub control, wildlife management, and forest management. In 2005, 5,000 acres were burned, 2200 acres were chemically treated for exotic plants, and 750 acres of overgrown shrub vegetation were mechanically shredded. Select areas of overly dense stands of cabbage palms and pine trees were thinned to improve habitat quality. In addition, an extensive public use program at DuPuis attracted thousands of visitors to the area and included hunting, fishing, horseback riding, nature watching, hiking, camping, and education programs through the DuPuis Visitor's Center.

Halpatiokee Park (managed by Martin County)

- County: Martin
- Project size: 347 acres
- District ownership: 347 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Halpatiokee is the portion of the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project that lies west of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River (163 acres) and the 184 acres previously acquired by the District as the South Fork SOR Project. Martin County manages the natural area in conjunction with Halpatiokee Regional Park. The property consists of pine flatwoods that surround a series of lakes that were originally excavated to provide fill for the construction of Interstate 95. The South Fork property is a mixture of river floodplain, pine flatwoods, and scrub. In 2005, Martin County treated for Category I and II exotic vegetation and provided 15 acres of prescribed burning. In conjunction with FWC, 50 acres of hydrilla and cattail control in the north and south lakes were

treated for 95 percent control. Re-vegetation occurred along the north lake shoreline with 43,000 plants of scirpus harvested from other areas. Understory shredding was also performed on 200 acres to reduce fuel loads and open the property for increased public use. In addition, there were workdays for the Native Plant Society Trail, the Florida Trail Association, South Fork High School ROTC (interpretive programming), the International Mountain Bike Association (exotic control), and the Campfire USA (installation of an interpretive kiosk and a screened 35' x 50' Interpretive Pavilion with electric/water adjacent to kiosk).

Indian River Lagoon (managed by St. Lucie County)

- County: St. Lucie/Martin
- Project size: 1,550 acres
- District ownership: 653 acres
- Acquisition partners: St. Lucie County, CARL, federal government

Indian River Lagoon is managed by St. Lucie County under a lease from SFWMD and the Division of State Lands. IRL property is incorporated into the St. Lucie County mosquito control program, where mosquitoes are controlled by nonchemical means. This method results in greatly improved water quality and wildlife and fisheries habitat in the lagoon. Mosquito impoundment berms are accessible to the public and provide excellent opportunities for fishing, crabbing, and bird watching. The Blind Creek property includes ocean beachfront access, including a dune crossover. During 2005, 100 acres of Blind Creek and Queens Island were retreated for exotics.

Loxahatchee River (managed by Palm Beach County/DEP)

- County: Palm Beach
- Project size: 1,936 acres
- District ownership: 1,547 acres
- Acquisition partners: Palm Beach County

District-owned lands along the river are managed by the FDEP Division of Recreation and Parks and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department. FDEP manages the area north of SR 706 (Indiantown Road) as part of Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Palm Beach County manages the lands south of the road as Riverbend County Park. Both managers have done extensive treatment of exotics. Palm Beach County, in conjunction with the District, is completing hydrologic restoration of its management area in an attempt to restore the Eastern Slough, a historic tributary to the Loxahatchee River. The restoration project will enable water to be delivered to the river through a more natural flow-way. FDEP manages its lands under the Jonathan Dickinson State Park plan. Palm Beach County has a development plan for Riverbend Park. A management plan will be developed as park development progresses.

Loxahatchee Slough (managed by District/Palm Beach County)

- County: Palm Beach
- Project size: 15,200 acres
- District ownership: 1,488 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The District is currently managing the Sandhill Crane portion of the project, the 1,425-acre tract purchased by the District. But a transfer of ownership is under way that will result in Palm Beach County owning the property and their Department of Environmental Resource Management managing the lands. Palm Beach County owns more than 10,000 acres in the Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area, which adjoins the Sandhill tract. In 2005, more than 1,000 acres of exotic vegetation were treated. The 800 acres of remaining pine flatwoods were shredded to reduce heavy saw palmetto cover in the understory. Shredding was followed by timber thinning, which reduced the number of trees by 50 percent. The combined shredding and timber thinning will result in a much healthier forest, a more diverse understory plant community due to more light reaching the forest floor, improved wildlife habitat, and a more aesthetically pleasing landscape.

North Fork St. Lucie River (managed by St. Lucie County/FDEP)

- County: St. Lucie
- Project size: 3,800 acres
- District ownership: 482 acres
- Acquisition partners: St. Lucie County, CARL

State, County, and District-owned lands along the North Fork are being managed by St. Lucie County and FDEP, as part of the North Fork Aquatic Preserve. Both St. Lucie County and FDEP are treating exotics and conducting limited prescribed burns. Burning is extremely difficult due to the surrounding urban development. St. Lucie County constructed and operates the Oxbow Eco-center, an environmental education facility along the river in Port St. Lucie that incorporates indoor displays with outdoor programming that utilizes interpretive trails, towers, and boardwalks. Approximately sixteen thousand students and adults have participated in classes, workshops, and special events.

Pal-Mar (managed by FWC/Palm Beach County)

- County: Palm Beach/Martin
- Project size: 36,745 acres
- District ownership: 13,136 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL/Palm Beach County

State and District-owned lands are under management lease to FWC using an approved management plan. Resource inventories are being conducted by FWC and exotic infestations have been mapped. Exotic treatments and prescribed burning are ongoing. The property is open for public use that includes hiking, primitive camping, hunting, fishing, bicycling, and horseback riding. FWC is managing the Martin County lands as the John C. and Mariana Jones/Hungryland Wildlife and Environmental Area. Palm Beach County will continue to manage their lands south of Indiantown Road as the Pal-Mar Natural Area.

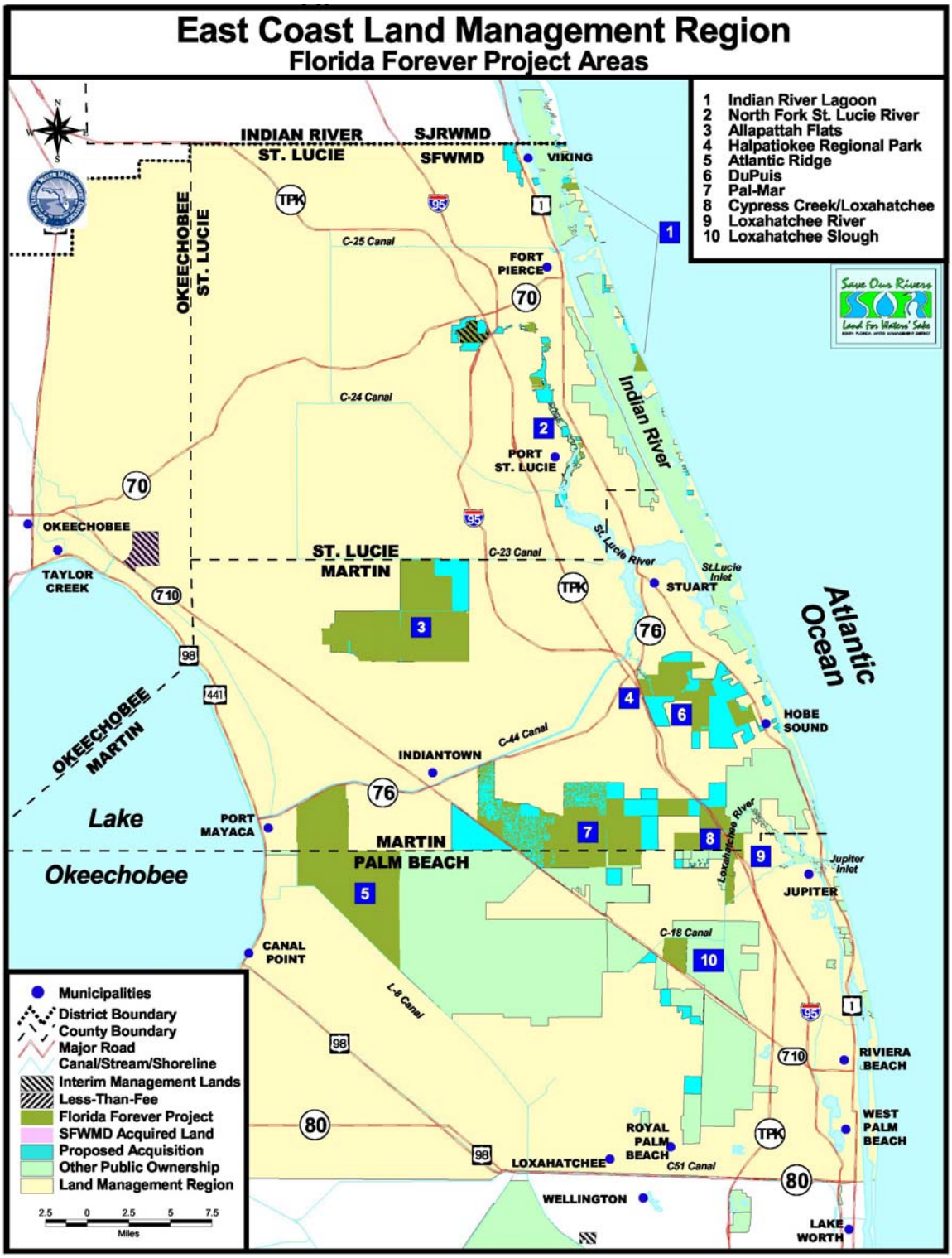

Figure 6-25. East Coast Land Management Region.

1

EVERGLADES LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, MIAMI SERVICE CENTER / WEST PALM BEACH

Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank (managed by TetraTech FW, Inc.)

- County: Palm Beach
- Project size: 1,256 acres
- District ownership: 1,256 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank site lies adjacent to the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The location of this site will provide habitat connectivity that augments existing Everglades wetland systems. Brazilian pepper and other exotics have degraded the area, adversely impacting native wildlife habitat, including a number of threatened and endangered species. The goal of the bank is to restore habitat values and provide enhancement of a degraded Everglades ecosystem through hydroperiod restoration, exotic vegetation removal, re-vegetation with desired species, and prescribed burning. Through an open and competitive solicitation process Tetra Tech ECI was selected to establish the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank. Permitting and construction have been completed; exotic enhancements are ongoing. As of late 2005, the Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank is completing its third year of monitoring toward attainment of the success criteria, and in May 2005 the second revenue disbursement in the amount of $205,000 was provided by TetraTech, ECI to SFWMD. This will be utilized to offset previous land acquisition costs associated with the project.

Model Lands (District managed)

- County: Miami-Dade
- Project size: 42,402 acres
- District ownership: 6,840 acres
- Acquisition partners: Miami-Dade County

The Model Lands project will play a vital role in conveyance and treatment of sheetflow from the south Dade area to the downstream estuaries into Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park. It is a combination of fresh and saltwater wetlands, portions of which are heavily infested with exotic vegetation. Although more than 14,000 acres are in public ownership, there is no public use program due to lack of legal access and patchy ownership. The major management activities have been treating exotic vegetation and restricting detrimental activities, such as ORV use, which can cause long-term ecological impacts, poaching, and dumping. Hydrologic restoration is necessary and is planned under CERP. A management plan for the area is currently under development. In 2004, over 265 acres of exotics were treated for the first time and follow-up was completed on more than 1,130 acres. With the help of Miami-Dade County, facilitated through a Memorandum of Agreement approved by the District Governing Board in May 2005 between Miami-Dade and the District, the area also received the benefit of more than 100 acres of mechanical exotic removal and hydrologic restoration to former short hydroperiod wetland. Additionally, 600 acres were burned as a result of the Model Lands first prescribed burn.

Southern Glades (managed by FWC)

- County: Miami-Dade
- Project size: 37,620 acres
- District ownership: 32,499 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Southern Glades is cooperatively managed by FWC, under a lease agreement, as the Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area. It is open to hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, air-boating, bicycling, and horseback riding. The District is directing mitigation funds for habitat restoration that includes exotic removal and re-vegetation with native species. The large, mature hammock known as Lucky Hammock was planted with supplemental shrubs. This year the District, through a zero-dollar contract, was able to restore ecological and hydrologic connectivity and function by removing more than a mile of road and three fill pads within the Wildlife Environmental Area. In cooperation with FWC, the District has chemically treated 250 acres of invasive exotic species. Additionally, the District received a $400,000 grant through Miami-Dade County's Special Areas Management Plan for habitat restoration to begin in FY2006. Approximately 1,100 acres were managed by prescribed fire, including a several-acre pine rockland, which also has since been replanted with 100 pine tublings as part of the ongoing restoration efforts in the area.

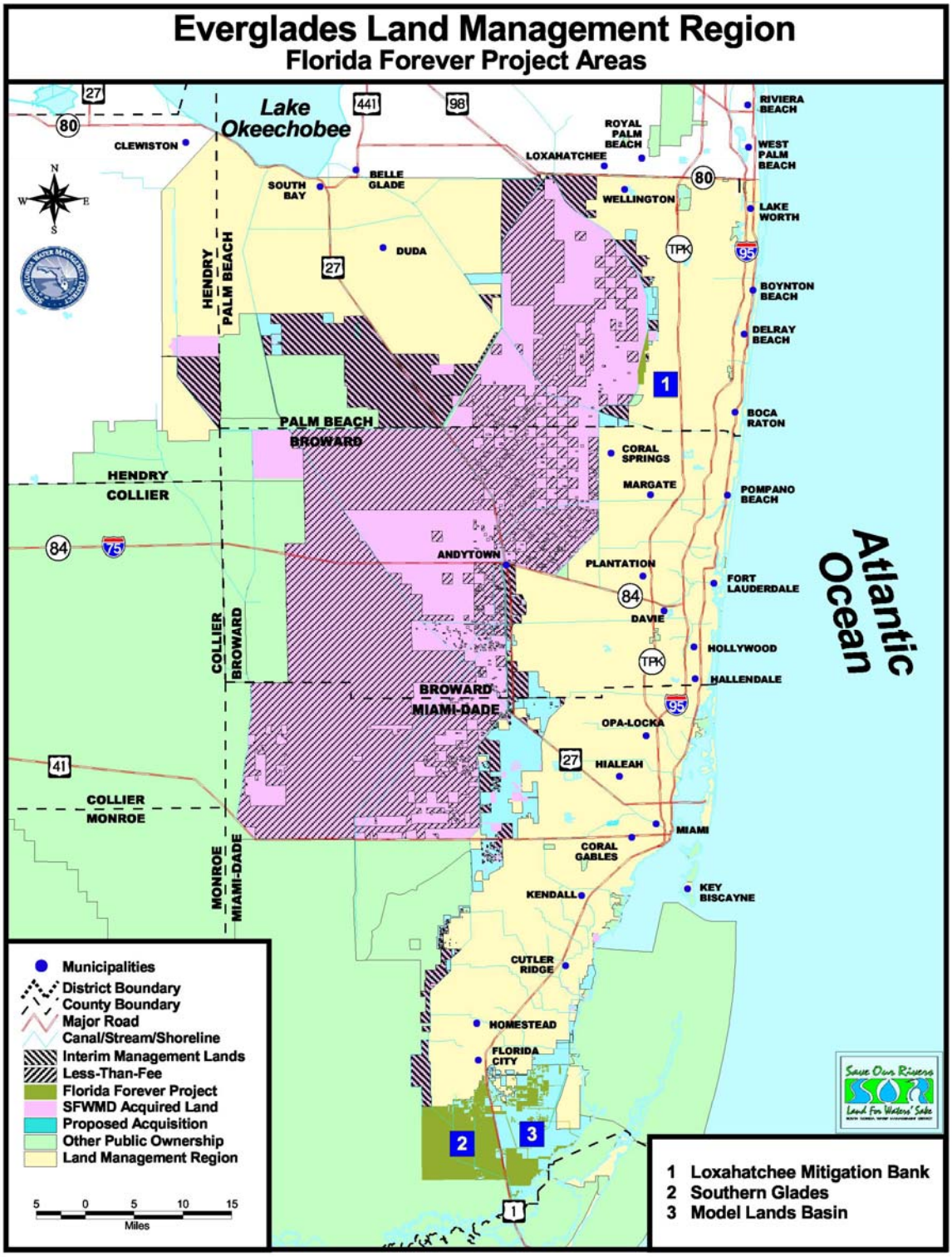

Figure 6-26. Everglades Land Management Region.

1

WEST COAST LAND MANAGEMENT REGION, FT. MYERS SERVICE CENTER

Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank (managed by Mariner Properties Development, Inc.)

- County: Lee
- Project size: 633 acres
- District ownership: 633 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

The Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank is located in southern Lee County, along Corkscrew Road (SR 850). It is adjacent to the Imperial Marsh/Stairstep mitigation area, which has been established to offset impacts associated with the Southwest Florida Regional Airport. The goal of the bank is to improve habitat values and restore the historic function of the upland/wetland mosaic through hydroperiod restoration, exotic vegetation removal, and prescribed burning. The Corkscrew bank site contributes to corridor building and the green infrastructure within the regional context. Mariner Properties Development, selected through an open and competitive solicitation process, is establishing the Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank. During 2005, the Corkscrew Regional Mitigation Bank initiated construction by removing pasture grasses and conducting exotic treatment.

Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) (managed by District/FWC)

- County: Lee, Collier
- Project size: 64,103 acres
- District ownership: 25,821 acres
- Acquisition partners: Lee County, CARL, USFWS

The SFWMD and FWC jointly manage CREW. The public use and environmental education program is directed by the CREW Land and Water Trust. The management plan was updated in 2002 and describes plans for exotic control, prescribed burning, upland restoration opportunities, and public use. Property boundaries are posted and FWC wildlife officers patrol the property. In 2005, 1,971 acres were prescribe-burned and 6,738 acres of exotics were treated. Restoration work continued on the CREW Management Center (288 acres), E Corkscrew Marsh (80 acres), E Bird Rookery Swamp (70 acres) and the Tree Wizard (10 acres) with mechanical shrub control and exotic plant control. A new 5,400-square-foot maintenance building was completed in August. There is one grazing lease on the CREW Management Area.

Nicodemus Slough (managed by Aim Engineering, Inc.)

- County: Glades
- Project size: 2,231 acres
- District ownership: 2,231 acres
- Acquisition partners: None

Aside from the two mitigation banks, Nicodemus Slough is the only SOR tract under management by a private entity. The District contracts with Aim Engineering, Inc. for management services that include exotic control, prescribed burning, and maintaining the public use facilities. During 2004, 537 acres were roller-chopped, 367 acres were mowed, 510 acres were burned, and 17 acres had exotic control. A hydrologic restoration project that was undertaken by the District many years ago has been disappointing, and has caused much dissatisfaction with the adjoining property owner. The District has been attempting to reach a suitable agreement with the adjoining landowners, in which the property would be sold to them and a conservation easement would be retained by the District.

Okaloacoochee Slough (managed by Division of Forestry/FWC)

- County: Hendry, Collier
- Project size: 37,210 acres
- District ownership: 34,982 acres
- Acquisition partners: CARL, FWC, DOF

The Division of Forestry (DOF) and FWC purchased additional lands in the project that expand the original District/state purchase. The project is managed as Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest with DOF as lead manager and FWC responsible for wildlife management under a four-party lease agreement with the Division of State Lands and the District. FWC manages the project as a Type 1 Wildlife Management Area and conducts a public hunt program. An approved management plan is in place. In 2004, 3,500 acres were prescribe-burned and 5,000 acres of exotic vegetation were surveyed and/or chemically treated. Additionally, 330 acres were drum-chopped, with 314 acres of the 330 planted with 190,000 South Florida slash pine.

Six Mile Cypress (managed by Lee County)

- County: Lee
- Project size: 1,741 acres
- District ownership: 842 acres
- Acquisition partners: Lee County

The property is jointly owned by Lee County and the District and has been managed by Lee County Parks and Recreation since acquisition began. The management plan was updated in 2002. Lee County built and maintains a boardwalk and outdoor classroom facility that is used by 35,000 Lee County students and citizens each year. Six Mile Cypress likely has the highest rate of public visitation of any SOR project. Management activities conducted during 2004 include working with SFWMD, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and consultants on design and permitting for two large mitigation projects involving exotic plant removal and replanting with native vegetation — one in the northern, and the other in the southern, portion of the slough. Monitoring surveys of selected ponds were also conducted to determine wildlife presence,

percent cover by exotic vegetation and other related parameters. Wildlife cameras were also placed in several locations and checked regularly. Wild hogs, raccoons, and bobcats were recorded by photographs. A combination of patrols by county rangers and posting of regulatory signage was employed to decrease off-road vehicle trespassing in the preserve. Maintenance work on several existing mitigation areas was performed, which included exotic and nuisance plant control. Maintenance exotic plant control work was also done along two miles of the west boundary of the preserve, from Daniels Parkway to north of Penzance Road. Prescribe burning is difficult, due to the surrounding urban development.

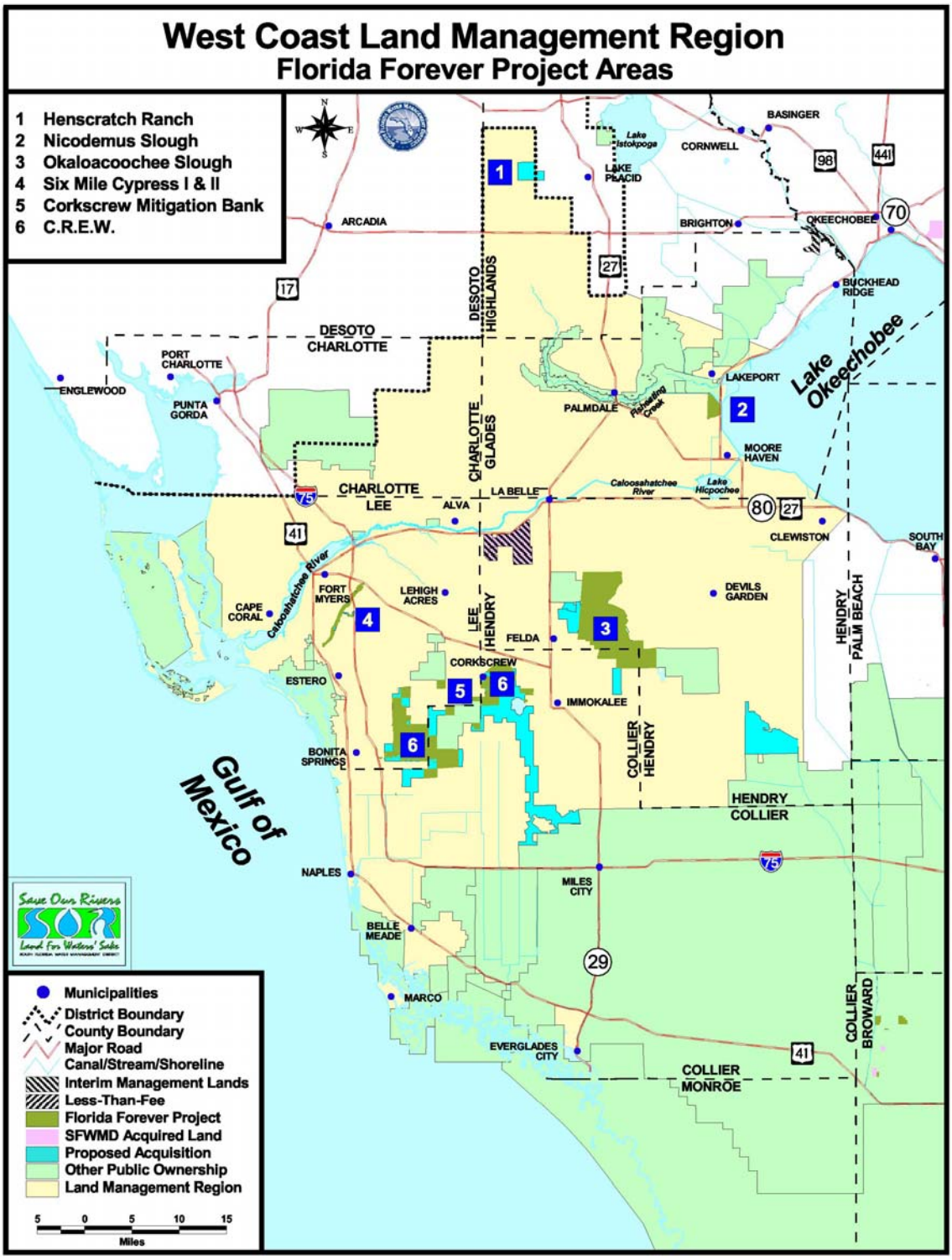

Figure 6-27. West Coast Land Management Region.

1

Table 6-19. Land Stewardship Program Acquisition Summary — 2005.

Project Name	County	Size (Acres)	Acres Acquired	Acquisition Partners
Allapattah Flats	Martin	22,560	21,407	Martin County/Federal
Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem	Martin	13,122	6,094	CARL
Corkscrew Mitigation Bank	Lee	633	633	None
CREW	Lee/Collier	64.103	25,821	CARL/Lee County
Cypress Creek	Martin/Palm Beach County	4,347	3,547	Martin County/ Palm Beach County
DuPuis	PB/Martin	21,875	21,875	None
Halpatiokee Park	Martin	347	347	None
Indian River Lagoon	Martin/St. Lucie	1,550	653	St. Lucie County/ CARL/Federal
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	Polk/Osceola	36,763	35,563	None
Kissimmee Prairie	Okeechobee	38,282	38,282	CARL
Kissimmee River	Highlands/Okee/ Polk/Osceola	68,332	53,985	None
Lake Marion Creek	Polk	17,300	7,067	Polk County
Loxahatchee Mitigation Bank	Palm Beach	1,256	1,256	None
Loxahatchee River	PB/Martin	1,936	1,547	Palm Beach County
Loxahatchee Slough	Palm Beach	15,200	1,488	None
Model Lands	Miami-Dade	42,402	6,840	Miami-Dade County
Nicodemus Slough	Glades	2,231	2,231	None
N. Fork St. Lucie River	St. Lucie	3,800	482	St. Lucie County/ CARL
Okaloacoochee Slough	Hendry/Collier	37,210	34,982	CARL/DOF/FWC
Pal-Mar	PB/Martin	36,745	13,136	CARL/Martin County/ Palm Beach County
Paradise Run	Glades	4,265	3,328	None
Reedy Creek	Osceola	30,000	5,483	None
Shingle Creek	Orange	7,655	1,628	None
Six Mile Cypress	Lee	1,741	842	Lee County
Southern Glades	Miami-Dade	37,620	32,499	None
SUMICA	Polk	4,009	4,009	Polk County
Tibet-Butler Preserve	Orange	439	439	None
Water Conservation Areas	PB/Brow/Dade	105,047	52,918	None
Totals		**556,731**	**378,382**	

Table 6-20. Public Use Opportunities.

Pulic Use Opportunities									
Land Management Region	Lead Manager	Public Access	Environ. Education	Hunting	Horseback Riding	Air Boating	Camping	Hiking	Bicyclin
Upper Lakes Region									
Kissimmee Chain of Lakes	SFWMD	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Lake Marion Creek	SFWMD	•		•			•	•	•
Sumica	Polk County	•					•	•	
Reedy Creek	SFWMD	•	•					•	
Shingle Creek	SFWMD	•						•	•
Tibet Butler Preserve	Orange County	•	•					•	
Kissimmee-Okeechobee Region									
Kissimmee Prairie	DEP	•	•		•		•	•	•
Kissimmee River	SFWMD	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
Paradise Run	SFWMD	•		•		•		•	•
East Coast Region									
Allapattah Flats	SFWMD	•							
Atlantic Ridge	DEP	none							
DuPuis	SFWMD	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Halpatiokee Park	Martin	•					•	•	•
Indian River Lagoon	St. Lucie County	•						•	
Loxahatchee River	DEP	•			•		•	•	•
Loxahatchee Slough	SFWMD	•						•	
North Fork St. Lucie River	DEP	•	•					•	
Pal-Mar	FWC	•		•	•		•	•	
Everglades Region									
Everglades Buffer Strip	SFWMD	•						•	
Model Lands	SFWMD	none							
Southern Glades	FWC	•		•	•	•	•	•	•
West Coast Region									
CREW	SFWMD	•	•	•			•	•	
Nicodemus Slough	Aim Engineering Inc.	•				•		•	
Okaloacoochee Slough	DOF	•		•	•		•	•	•
Six Mile Cypress	Lee County	•	•					•	

INTERIM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Background

The Interim Property Management Program is responsible for managing those properties acquired by the District for future CERP and other projects until such time as the land is needed for construction. These lands will ultimately be used as stormwater treatment areas, surface water reservoirs, groundwater recharge areas, and/or buffer lands between the Everglades and other sensitive areas and urban development. These lands are not specifically acquired or designated for environmental enhancement, restoration, or preservation purposes and generally they are not proposed for recreational or other public uses, except on a limited basis that is consistent with their future use.

The Interim Property Management program was initially developed in 1997 to manage the Stormwater Treatment Area (STA), Water Preserve/Management Area (WPA/WMA), and East Coast Buffer (ECB) lands during the interim period while acquisition, planning, design, and construction for these projects was taking place. It has since evolved to include other lands acquired by the District for future CERP and other similar construction projects throughout the District. The Land Management Division (LMD) has developed a multifaceted management approach that:

- protects the natural resource;
- provides on-site management and security for District-owned lands at a minimal cost to the District;
- minimizes District expenses by increasing revenue from non-governmental sources to offset District management, maintenance, and resource protection costs;
- generates additional funding for future acquisition;
- minimizes impacts to the local agricultural economy by keeping viable agricultural lands in active production for as long as possible; and
- minimizes fiscal impacts to the local government by keeping lands on the tax roll until they are actually needed for construction.

Where appropriate, historical uses of properties such as grazing, sod, vegetable and sugar cane farming, and nurseries and tree farms are allowed to continue through the use of reservations, leases, or similar agreements. Generally, a competitive bid process is used to solicit proposals and award contracts, which include the appropriate cancellation clauses so the land can be quickly made available when it is needed. In some cases, short-term leases (five years or less) are negotiated as part of the acquisition package. Lessees are typically required to actively manage the property, control exotics, provide security for the property, implement applicable Best Management Practices, keep the property and facilities in good repair and condition, obtain all required permits and approvals for their activities, maintain required insurance coverage, pay applicable taxes, etc.

For those lands that are in their natural state and/or where some type of active interim use is inappropriate due to the environmental sensitivity of the land and/or the projected construction timetable for the project for which the land has been acquired, Interim Property Management either manages these lands themselves or contracts with another governmental entity. Interim Property Management conducts an ongoing property management program and oversees exotic

control, cleanup, security, and any other activities necessary to maintain the lands in good condition.

During FY2005, the Interim Property Management program was responsible for over 150,000 acres of land, of which 90,000 acres were managed under 71 different leases or management agreements.

The Interim Property Management program is currently staffed by a group of four professionals with expertise in real estate, finance, business administration, and property management. They are responsible for managing these lands through the development of land management plans, implementation and management of leases, regular property inspections, and appropriate follow-up activities including exotic control, fencing, cleanup, security,,on non-leased lands.

The FY2005 budget for Interim Property Management was $3,144,102. This includes personnel costs; contractual expenses for activities such as exotic control, cleanup, security, etc.; and general administrative costs. Revenue generated by LMD from leases, sale of products, and other alternative sources for the year was in excess of $3 million. This was in addition to the $2,250,000 in management costs avoided (calculated at an average cost of $25 per acre) due to the 71 leases and management agreements in place for the 90,000 acres under contract. By maintaining the leased properties on the local tax rolls, the lessees paid $2.5 million in property taxes for a total contribution by the Interim Property Management program of more than $8 million.